

SEPTEMBER 2003

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C H I N A T O U R I S M



THE THREE GORGES CHANGED FOREVER (II)

XUAN KE: NAXI MUSIC PRESERVER
HOMES AWAY FROM HOME IN DALI

278

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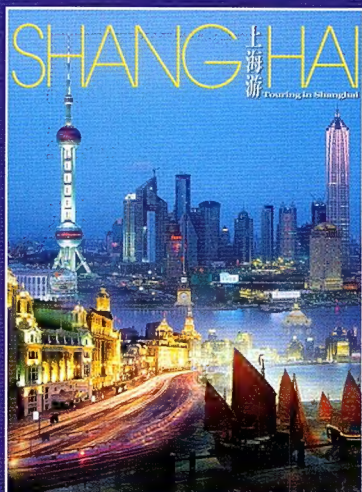
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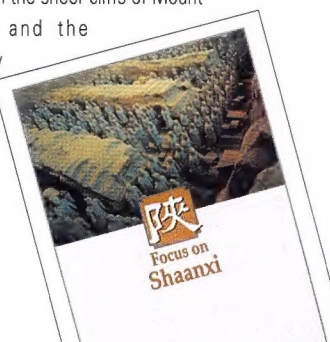
FOCUS ON XINJIANG

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, all providing tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem embedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak, the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibe, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique and colourful culture.



FOCUS ON SHAANXI

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



FOCUS ON YUNNAN

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate all year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-la, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.

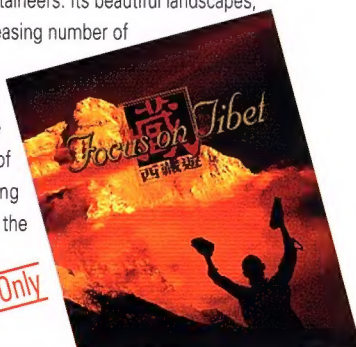


The Call of China's West

FOCUS ON TIBET The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is a land of mystery for tourists, a land of wonders for explorers, a land of purity for Buddhists, and the ultimate challenge for mountaineers. Its beautiful landscapes, unique geographical features and rich cultural legacy continue to attract an increasing number of visitors.

The countless attractions of Tibet make it impossible to include them all in one book. This photographic publication offers an introduction to some of the Region's most celebrated features: the Potala Palace and its precious collection of cultural relics; the Jokhang Temple with strings of worshippers prostrating themselves before it; the Shoton Festival and the Sunning of Buddha ceremony; the ruins of the mystical Guge Kingdom; and the amazing Qiangtang Grassland...

At the same time, *Focus on Tibet* outlines the six major routes to Tibet and the many stunning landscapes found along the way.



Paperback Only

FOCUS ON GUIZHOU

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.



FOCUS ON GUANGXI

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the diverse traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



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The Three Gorges Changed Forever (II)

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Article by Zhang Ronghui, Zheng Yunfeng

On June 1, 2003, the Three Gorges Dam tamed completely the wild, roaring Yangtze River. As the water suddenly rose, one after another, old cities and towns and thousand-year-old cultural relics sank into the river, never to be seen again. With the shutting of the sluice gates of the Three Gorges Dam, 39 historic and cultural sites in the dam area were lost in the water, including nine natural sites and 16 man-made sites. Six natural and eight man-made sites were half-inundated. Tourists can now only see the changed new Three Gorges.



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"Because It Is There" —

50 Years After the Historic Ascent of Mt. Qomolangma

Photos by Ding Yi, Suolang Lucbu, Duoji Zhandui, Xun Chengyi, & others Article by Zhou Zheng

On May 29, 1953, the British climbing team — composed of 120 Sherpas guides and porters — had finally reached the summit of Mt. Qomolangma, creating the first miracle in the mountaineering history. Until the end of November 2002, alpine explorers from all over the world have climbed the "Third Pole" of the world 420 times. A total of 1,200 people have reached its pinnacle. All in all 42 different routes to reach the top have been developed. Fifty years have passed and expeditions from around the globe have continued, for no particular reason other than "Because it is there".

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Homes Away From Home in Dali

Photos & article by Dianna

Dali ancient city in Yunnan Province is crowded with exotic bars and cafes as well as foreigners. Hotels and hostels established there are most suitable for backpackers or tourists who are looking for accommodation with relaxed environment, convenient facilities, and of course, reasonable prices. These buildings also reflect the unique styles of their owners. Our correspondent gives you many more tips on the major ones.

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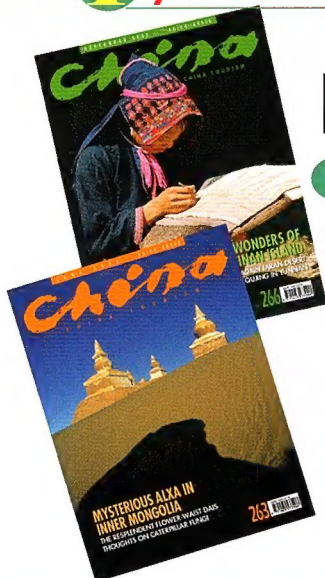
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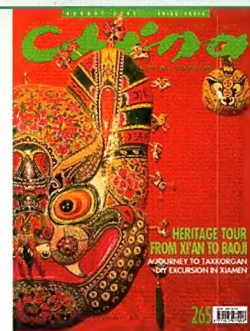
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Photos & article by Kit Chu



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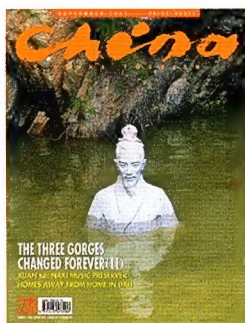
72 Profile Xuan Ke: A Man with an Evergreen Heart

Photos & article by Dianna Lau

Xuan Ke is the soul of the ancient Naxi music performance staged at the Naxi Concert Hall every night in Lijiang, Yunnan Province. The 73-year-old man has been devoting to the study of musical ethnology and collecting folklore for over 20 years, and has successfully written lyrics for three Tang Dynasty music pieces, which has become the masterpieces of today's Naxi Ancient Music show.

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The statue of Lu You half inundated
(by Zheng Yunfeng)



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Publisher: HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS

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Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001

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Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Remembering People

Too often we forget that China's superlative things are already common knowledge, or that the sheer scale of these facts and figures puts them beyond the appreciation of most readers, rendering them meaningless.

The problem is that we forget the people behind the facts and figures. This edition, we hope, goes some way to redressing the problem. Among the hundreds of thousands of people leaving the Three Gorges to make way for the massive reservoir are real human stories. Zheng Yunfeng, who spent seven years photographing the changes at the Three Gorges, is a story in himself for his perseverance and dogged devotion to recording all that will be lost. But he reminds us too of his helmsman Mr. Zou's earthy wisdom collected from previous generations, and of porter Mr. Wang's backbreaking labours to get his children through school.

We also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the conquering of Qomolangma (Mount Everest), recalling the men and women from around the world who came to set new standards of human endeavour—and sometimes died trying.

As our profile of Xuan Ke, the unofficial guardian of Naxi ancient music, reminds us, China's treasures and achievements cannot exist in isolation. People created them, people keep them, and people are the real stories in China.

Zheng Yunfeng wading through the water to shoot the submergence of the ancient plank way at Qutang Gorge





Guangdong to Build China's First Aviation Club

China's first aviation club is to be established in Huizhou City, South China's Guangdong Province.

Covering 400 *mu* (26.7 hectares), the club will be equipped with light aircraft, helicopters, powered gliders, airships and other flying facilities, as well as provides airspace, and ground service facilities like hangars and navigation systems in nearby Shenzhen. Maintenance, parking and other services would also be provided for club members.

Club members will enjoy the fun of flying and be able to acquire a pilot license by passing examinations. As explained by its General Manager, the club mainly was aimed at aviation lovers in Shenzhen, where the number of privately owned aircraft had reached 20, and Hong Kong, where more than 100 people had pilot licenses. Potential club members also included foreign pilot license holders, based in the region.

The membership fee would be set at between 300,000 ~ 500,000 yuan and the charge for each flying hour would be around 3,000 yuan.

University Park Underway in Guangxi

Construction began in July on the first university park in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The park in port city of Beihai is being built at a cost of 10 billion yuan, which has mainly come from non-state investors. Prestigious Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and the Sino-French Association for the Development and Exchange of Education will be among the first occupants of the new park.

The park would be a "platform" of educational innovation combined with new industries and human resources. It will promote the economic development of the Beibu Gulf area, which plays an essential role in China's western development and the construction of the Sino-Asian Free-trade Area. The park, planned to be completed in April 2004, will enroll its first 1,500 students in autumn next year.

New City to Be Built to Protect Lijiang



Yunnan Province in Southwest China has stepped up efforts to protect the ancient city of Lijiang, which has a history of more than 800 years.

As part of protection efforts, the local government has begun construction of a new city covering more than 330 hectares to accommodate residents and enterprises relocated from the ancient city. Part of the new city, being built adjacent to the ancient city, will be used to attract investment from home and abroad. Named "Xianghe Licheng" which means "peaceful and beautiful city", the new city will be built in the same architectural style of the ancient city of Lijiang.

The ancient city of Lijiang situated on the Yunnan plateau 2,600 metres above sea level has been listed as a World Cultural Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1997. To better protect the ancient city of Lijiang, the local government has invested more than 93 million yuan to repair and upgrade the sewage and drainage networks, the electrical power grid, telecommunications lines and the road network both in and around ancient Lijiang City.

Olympic Venue Under Construction in Tianjin

Located along with Qinhuangdao, Shenyang and Shanghai, Tianjin will be a venue for soccer competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Since early August, the city has begun construction of the Olympic stadium.

The scheme designed by Japan's AXS architecture company has been selected as the layout of the Olympic stadium. The stadium, covering a floor area of 78,000 square metres, boasts a capacity of 60,000 seats. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to express their views on the construction plan.

Xinjiang to Build Museum on Anthropology

China's first anthropological museum will be established in Urümqi, the capital of Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

It will serve as a base for anthropological research and for the display of specialized exhibits. The ancient Silk Road passed through this part of present-day Xinjiang, where people of different nationalities lived and oriental and western civilizations converged.

A great number of historical sites in this region have remained intact, protected, in a sense, by the arid climate and other geographic features. These sites will serve as a precious reference for research in anthropology.



City scene of Guangzhou

Air Route Links Guangzhou and Lhasa

A new air route connecting Guangzhou, the capital city of South China's Guangdong Province, and Lhasa, capital of the country's southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region has been launched in late July.

A Boeing 757 passenger plane took off from Guangzhou at 7:30 a.m. and reached the Gonggar Airport of Lhasa at 0:40 p.m., after making a stopover in Dêqên, home to the prestigious landscape Shangri-La in Southwest China's Yunnan province.

The new air route is operated by the China Southern Airlines (CSA), which offers return flights every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between the two cities. The new air route is seen as another bridge between Tibet and other areas of China.

Jiuzhaigou Vehicle Travel Festival Ready to Kick Off

Recently, Jiuzhaigou (Nine Village Valley), a famous scenic area located in Sichuan Province, is actively promoting the First China Jiuzhaigou Vehicle Tourist Festival. The event will focus on promoting safe and healthy travel, as well as characteristic Do-It-



Yourself or packed sight-seeing tours. Other travel programmes will also be provided, including Tibetan medicine treatment vacation and primitive forest tours, etc. Along with the opening of the Jiuhuang (Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong) Airport at this National Day on October 1, the construction of the Chuanjiu (Sichuan-Jiuzhaigou) Highway — the country's first environmental protection demonstrative highway — will also be completed. Tourists can choose to visit Jiuzhaigou by plane or car more conveniently.

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Before the water storage, the boat on the left would have been some distance from the ancient path from where this small photograph was taken. But in the large picture, the ancient path is going to be inundated soon.

The Three Gorges Changed Forever (II)



Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Article by Zhang Ronghui, Zheng Yunfeng

On June 1, 2003, the Three Gorges Dam tamed completely the wild, roaring Yangtze River. The 50-year dream of a smooth lake in the narrow gorges has come true on schedule. As the water suddenly rose, one after another, old cities and towns and thousand-year-old cultural relics sank into the river, never to be seen again. While celebrating the great economic benefits of the Three Gorges Project, should we lament the destruction of so many important historical sites?









Several days after water storage at the same location, the ancient path has been submerged, while Mr. Baiyan opposite sits lower in the water with some of the wall inscriptions submerged.



On June 10 when the water level has reached 135 metres, the old Zigui county seat and "Jiulong Benjiang" (a dangerous shoal at Xiling Gorge) have been inundated. The Yangtze River has become a huge reservoir.



Before water storage, the 135-metre water level signboard was high above the river, and the old county seat of Zigui, on the left, could be seen clearly.

WATCHING THE WATERS RISE



At 9 a.m. on June 2, 2003, water rose to the Ox Liver and Horse Lung Crag (the one protruding less than 10 m above water in the centre of the picture).

June 2

The dangerous shoal of the Xiling Gorge disappears

I took a bus from Yichang early in the morning and changed to a motorboat at the New Port of Maoping to Fengjie via the old town of Zigui, Badong and Wushan. I was appalled by the vast stretch of green water. Many ships and boats floated steadily on the surface — the great rolling river had become a calm lake, and the water was still rising. Our boat sped along the broad surface of the Ninghe River and before long, came into the estuary of the Xiangxi River. The old, simple and solid stone dock, the three-storey "Bosom Friend" hostel, where I stayed often, on the riverside, the swaying wooden suspension bridge spanning the Xianghe River, all disappeared and are only memories. The thousand-year-old town of Zigui was "swallowed" by water, and the renowned Nine (Stone Ridges) Dragons Stretching into the River lay at the bottom. The ancient towns of Badong, Beishi and Qingshi were all gone. The 12 peaks of the Wuxia Gorge seemed much closer.

I stood at the porthole of the ship and kept watching, thinking, recalling and comparing — the Three Gorges had changed; they had changed all too fast... The hoot of the siren suddenly roused me from the past. We were at the New Port of Wuxia Gorge.

June 3

Watching the Lu You Cave being inundated

At daybreak, I boarded a motorboat to the Lu You Cave in the Wuxia Gorge. "My Goodness," I shouted subconsciously. The

water was three to four metres below the cave. How could it reach the cave overnight? I took out my camera hurriedly and took many pictures from various angles. The water was rising quickly, and in my two hours of photographing, it rose almost 35 cm. Before long, the water covered the cave entrance and the yard was inaccessible. As I was wondering what to do, the boatmen had an idea. They propped up the boat against the wall of the yard, and helped me climb on to the wall and then on to the roof of the house. I stood high and took the picture of Lu You's statue being submerged up to the chest. In an hour, this great man of letters would be covered in water. The next day, all the relics in the Lu You Cave were deep in water.

June 5

A last glimpse of the Whitewashed Cliff Wall

I stood on the bow as our boat sailed from the New Port of Fengjie County east along the river. Looking east, the town of Baidicheng was like a small lonely island floating on the surface of the broad lake, now up, now down, with the dancing of the waves. This 2,000-year-old town will become a lonely island in 2009 when the third phase of the Three Gorges Project is completed with water as deep as 175 metres. As our boat reached the Whitewashed Cliff Wall of Inscriptions, I saw the calligraphies inscribed on it were close to the water. The boatman Master Liu reminded me, "The water is rising so fast. They will be



At 10:00 a.m. on June 5, 2003, the statue of Lu You was still safe.



At 4:00 p.m. on June 6, 2003, over half of the statue was in the water, and it was soon inundated.

In the 10 days after the sluice gates of the Three Gorges Dam were formally shut, the water level rose from 80 metres to 135 metres. To witness this historical moment and to bid farewell to the Three Gorges where I lived and photographed for over six years, I went to the city of Yichang, the closest town to the Three Gorges Dam before June 1, 2003, then reached the dam area to catch the historic scenes of the Three Gorges being inundated.

covered in a few hours." I felt lucky that we came in time. Once in the water, they would never be seen again. I recorded and photographed them time and again, hoping to keep them eternally in the memory of history.

It was at sunset when we returned from the Whitewashed Cliff Wall.

June 7

Farewell to the site of Daxi Culture

The water level was 125.4 metres today. Our small boat stopped by the terrace on the bank of the Daxi River. I propped up the camera, trying to get different perspectives to record the last historical fragments of the Daxi Culture.

The Site of Daxi Culture is one of the most famous cultural relic

sites in the Three Gorges area. I had come to this excavation site four times and took many precious pictures of the archeological findings. It was my only solace to be able to catch a last look before it was submerged when the water reached 135 metres.

Sailing in a small wooden boat on the calm surface of the "lake" was something impossible in the past.

June 8

The ancient path of the Qutang Gorge under water

The water level was 128.76 metres today. When we reached the ancient path, water had climbed on to most of the ancient path. To photograph the path being inundated, I carried the heavy tripod, waded in chest-high water and walked along the cliff. Setting the tripod in the more shallow water on the ancient path, I was able to record how the water rushed on to the ancient path and finally submerged it. A huge wave from a ship's wake threw me into the water. Fortunately I grasped the tripod with one hand and clutched at a slot in the crag so the river did not take me.

The whole morning passed as I took 10 rolls of films from different angles and places to record the whole process of the ancient path being covered in water. Although the ancient path has sunk deep into

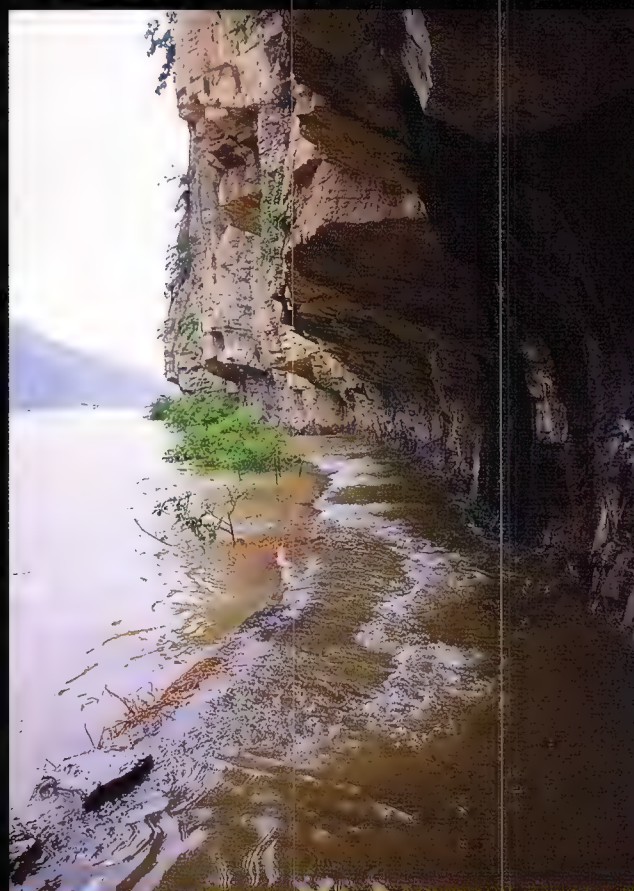
the bottom of the river together with the bitter stories of the boat trackers, it will stay forever in memories of the Three Gorges.

June 10

The last pictures of Zigui — farewell to the Three Gorges

Today the water reached 135 metres, five days earlier than scheduled. It kept thundering and raining all day long. My assistant Zou Jun and I sailed in the storm in a small boat along the river around the ancient town of Zigui. I had to bear the piercing pain on my injured leg and the torture of hunger to find the best spots for photographs, before we could catch glimpses of the Three Gorges being swallowed by the water.

I took my camera and my backpack, and boarded on the motorboat heading east. Farewell to Zigui Town. Farewell to the Three Gorges where I had lived and worked for seven hard years, and to the people of the Three Gorges whom I love so much.



At 9 a.m. on June 8, 2003, the ancient path at Qutang Gorge was almost submerged in water.

HISTORICAL SITES LOST FOREVER



Before the water storage, Lu You Cave was in a high location with a waterfall in front of it.

The river inundated 12 thousand-year-old cities forever after the Three Gorges Reservoir began to store water in June 2003. A few of the numerous precious relics dating back 2,000 years have been moved, but those that could not be moved, we could only see submerged in the water. The scenery on both sides of the river has been greatly changed due to the rise of the water, and tourists can now only see the changed Three Gorges.

On June 5, 2003, Lu You Cave, named after Lu You (1125—1210), a famous poet of the Southern Song Dynasty, was being inundated.

With the shutting of the sluice gates of the Three Gorges Dam, 39 historic and cultural sites in the dam area were lost in the water. Among them are nine natural sites and 16 man-made sites. Six natural and eight man-made sites were half inundated.

Baihohang (White Crane Ridge), at Fuling, a key cultural and historical site under state protection, is now covered completely. The old Ghost Town of Fengdu is inundated up to the foot of the Mingshan Mountain, but most of the scenery above the "Gate of Hell" remains. Only the part above the entrance to Shibaozhai (Stone Treasure Villa), in Zhongxian County, is above the

water. Surrounded by green water, it has really become a "Pearl on the River." The Temple to Zhang Fei was moved completely to Panshi Town across the new county seat of Yunyang County. The town of Baidicheng, in Fengjie, will become a lonely island on the river. The Whitewashed Cliff Wall inscriptions were raised to place higher than 175 metres. The Stele to Kong Ming and many stone carvings in the Xiling Gorges were preserved by means of rubbing, photographing, re-carving on other cliffs or cutting and moving to museums.

White Crane Ridge in Fuling

Baiheliang (White Crane Ridge) is located in the middle of the river north of Fuling Town, 120 km from Chongqing. It is a naturally formed stone ridge about 1,600 metres long and 15 metres wide stretching east to west parallel with the Yangtze River. Every year in the dry season, it emerged above the water. As it is shaped like a crane, and there used to be many white cranes perching there, it is named Baiheliang (White

Crane Ridge).

Most of the inscriptions are on the northern slope of Baiheliang, altogether over 160 items of calligraphy plus two images of Guanyin or the Goddess of Mercy and a white crane. These inscriptions include poems of over 30,000 characters written by more than 300 famous figures of past dynasties, written in different styles of Chinese calligraphy.

In addition, there are about 20 ancient stone fish used as water gauges to record the lowest water level.

As the Three Gorges Dam filled with water, Baiheliang disappeared. Experts believe the preservation of these inscriptions after more than 1,000 years has proved that the water of the Yangtze River is the best medium to protect Baiheliang. The Baiheliang Museum is being constructed here in two parts — one



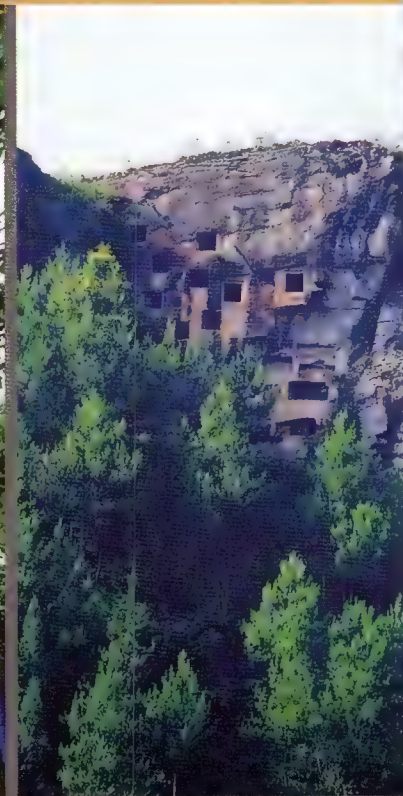
"The King of Corps" is about three metres long, 1.5 metres wide and 0.5 metre thick.



The old town of Fuling is visible from the White Crane Ridge.



Have the guts to go through the "Gate of Hell"?



on land and the other under water. In the land museum there are cultural relics to help visitors understand Baiheliang. The under water museum is similar to an "aquarium," which enables visitors to closely observe Baiheliang in a corridor. The museum project should be completed in three years.

The Ghost Town of Fengdu

Fengdu is over 170 km from Chongqing, Sichuan Province.

The "Ghost Town" is laid out according to the ancient perception of the judicature of Hell. There is a complete system of underground structures for punishment, such as the Bridge over the Abyss, the Hall of Anicca, the Jade Emperor's Palace, the Gate of Hell, the Road to the Nether World, the Heavenly Son's Palace, the Home Looking Terrace, and the Nether World. The annual "Ghost Town Temple Fair" held on the third day of the third lunar month is the biggest fair here, with folk-custom parades and performances.

As the "Ghost Town" is located in the hinterland of the Three Gorges area, many of its places, including its county seat,



A "Heavenly Master" who drives out evil spirits.

The "Museum of Coffins Set in Cliffs" in Shizhu Tujiazu Autonomous County. In groups of three to five or stretches of 20 to 30, these coffins in high cliffs are arranged orderly and appropriately. They have formed a roll of unique landscape painting extend from antiquity. The coffin groups in cliffs by the Longhe River have contained so much ancient mysterious culture of the Shizhu Tujia ethnic group.

have been inundated as the water level rises. Fortunately quite a few of the "Ghost Town's" scenic spots are half way up the mountain and escaped the flood.

The old town below the "Ghost Town" is now covered in

water, and the county seat of Fengdu has been moved south across the river.

The suspended coffins of Wuxi spread over the cliffs along the Daning River. The coffins are said to date from the late Warring States Period (475—221 B.C.) to late Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—24). With the rise of the water, these hanging coffins can be seen at close quarters. Within the frame in the picture is where the coffin is.

Cliff-Side Coffins in Shizhu

The Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County is situated in the Wuling Mountains in the hinterland of the Three Gorges Dam area along the Yangtze River. The main body of the Longhe River originating from the foot of the Qiyao Mountain is over 100 km long. On the cliffs along its banks there are more than 130 sites of coffins placed in about 1,000 niches dug in cliffs, referred to by the archeologists as the "Museum of Coffins Set in Cliffs".

The Longhe River valley is the home of the Tujia ethnic group. The Tujia people had the ancient custom of burial in coffins placed high on cliffs. They chiseled niches or caves in the cliffs and placed coffins there. Of the niches dug by the early Tujia people, there are two kinds — horizontal ones and vertical ones, with the first in the majority.

The coffins in the niches are made of wood, shaped like a boat. The coffins are set in the cliffs five to 20 metres above the ground. How these heavy wooden coffins were raised is still a mystery. Some people say the water level was higher in ancient times, so they were carried by boat. Others believe the coffins were pulled up by ropes.

Another phenomenon is also puzzling: both Shizhu and the Small Three Gorges belong to the Dalou Mountain Range in the Wushan Gorge. In Shizhu along the Longhe River banks the coffins are all placed in niches in cliffs, but the coffins in the Small Three Gorges by the Daning River are mostly half hanging and half in crevices or caves in the cliffs. Is there any relationship between the coffins in niches and the suspended ones? Did they belong to the same ethnic group or different branches of the same ethnic group? Further study is needed to answer these questions.

Suspended Coffins in the Cliffs at Wuxi

A group of suspended coffins are placed high in crevices or caves in the cliffs along the banks of Daning River at Wuxi. Some of them are hung as high as 500 metres above the water, while the lowest are over 30 metres high. There are 43 extant coffins in 274 caves dug in the cliffs in Wuxi County. The coffins are

This wooden coffin and its cover were made from a single tree.





Shibaozhai (Stone Treasure Villa) was built on Mt. Yuying. The small town below has been inundated. When the water level reaches 175 metres in 2009, boats will be able to sail directly to the gate of the village.

made of wood, normally chiseled out of a single piece of wood, with a one-piece bottom and cover, tenons joggled together. Archaeologists took down one coffin in recent years and found in it two corpses, a boy and a girl. The girl's head had a hole, resulting from a blow with a heavy instrument before her death. Buried with them were a bronze clasp and bracelet. The burial dated back to the later years of the Warring States Period (475—221 B.C.) and the later Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—24). There are still no conclusions as to what clan these coffins belonged. They were raised by ropes, and supported by the piling of dirt and scaffolding.

Stone Treasure Villa in Zhongxian

Situated on the northern bank of the Yangtze River 45 km from Zhongxian County town, Shibaozhai (Stone Treasure Villa) is a famous scenic spot, well known for its magnificent buildings with upturned eaves. Built in the Ming Dynasty and renovated and expanded many times during the Qing Dynasty, the main tower of the stockade village is 12 storeys high. Built with a unique design and craftsmanship, the tower is the highest of its buildings among the few high wooden structures extant in China today.

With the rising water, the saturated mountain will collapse together with the tower as the 175-metre water line is right on the main gate of the village. To protect this architectural feat, the local administration has decided to build a cement cover to protect the slope of the mountain and a one metre high sloped wall to keep water out. After the completion of the Three Gorges Project, Shibaozhai will be surrounded by green water to become a real "Pearl on the River", or a large "potted landscape" floating on the river. Visitors can reach the main gate of this village directly by boat.



Chastity and Filial Piety Archway of Lady Xiahuangshi

The Chastity and Filial Piety Archway of Lady Xiahuangshi is located in Paifang Village of Gaoyang Township in Yunyang County. The story goes that a 17-year-old girl named Huang was married off to a man in the Xia family. When she was 28, her husband died, leaving her with a seven-year-old boy. A very chaste woman, Xiahuangshi was respectful to her parents-in-law and did her best to educate her son, who became a successful candidate in the highest imperial examinations. To show his gratitude to his mother, he built this



The Chastity and Filial Piety Archway of Lady Xiahuangshi has great artistic value.

The carving technique used for the memorial archway includes sculpture-in-the-round, carving in relief and lines.

The Temple of Zhang Fei (166—221), a general of the Shu Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms period (220—280), has been moved up entirely. Yuniyang old city on the opposite bank has been inundated.

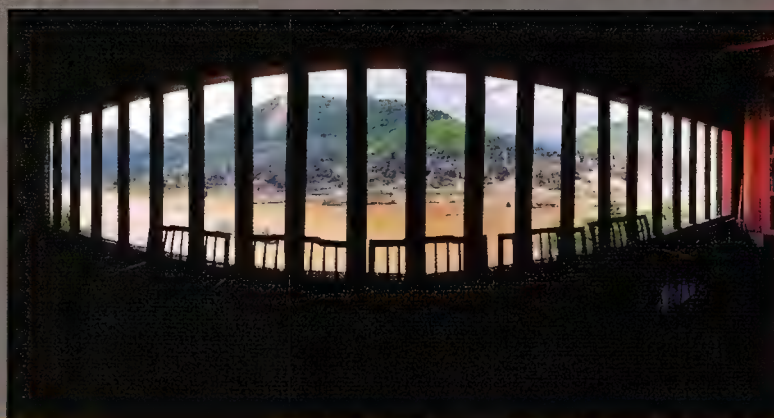


memorial archway and the Qing Emperor Jiaqing wrote an inscription for it on December 12, 1810.

The Chastity and Filial Piety Archway of Lady Xiahuangshi is built of stone in imitation of a wooden structure with four pillars and five roofs. There are exquisite sculptures-in-the-round, relief and line carvings on the crossbeams, brackets, drum-shaped blocks and stone columns, which are of high artistic skill. The memorial arch stands 15 metres high and 13 metres across, and most of the stone carvings are still clearly recognizable. It has been moved to Panlongzhai, the highest place in the new county seat of Yuniyang to where the above-ground cultural relics were relocated.

The Temple of Zhang Fei in Yuniyang County

The Temple to Zhang Fei (?—221), a general of the Shu Han Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms period (220—265) was first built 1,700 years ago at the end of the Three Kingdoms Period. After being rebuilt and expanded in the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, it is a complex of lofty, magnificent halls brilliantly decorated against the mountains — an excellent work of ancient Chinese architecture. Among the buildings, the Cuckoo Pavilion and the Moon Grace Pavilion were built in memory of the Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu (712—770) who lived here for two years. Here people offer sacrifices to both Zhang



Viewing the old Yuniyang city from the Temple of Zhang Fei.

Fei, the great general, and Du Fu, the great man of letters, combining the charms of two ancients of different dynasties, different personalities and different positions in the same temple, making it a rare temple honouring both civil accomplishments and military prowess. The temple is renowned for its three “bests” — literary writings, calligraphy, and carvings. With a rich collection of calligraphic works and paintings, the temple is also acclaimed as a “shrine of literary attainment”.

The Temple to Zhang Fei is to be moved together with the Yuniyang County Seat to the upper reaches of the Yangtze River on the riverside after the completion of the Three Gorges Project. Now the temple has found itself in Panshi Town across the river opposite the new county seat of Yuniyang. It is comparatively close to the original

temple in terms of the natural environment. It is a common joke that the most expensive person to be relocated is Zhang Fei, who is costing tens of millions of yuan.

Fengjie

Located on the northern bank of the



The Fengjie ancient wall was first built in the Ming Dynasty in 1474 and has been rebuilt many times since.

Yangtze River at the western end of the Three Gorges, Fengjie is a famous ancient town in eastern Sichuan that guards the entrance to the province.

Embraced by the river and backed by a mountain, Fengjie County seat is three kilometres in perimeter, with inscriptions on each of the five city gates, all built in 1474 during the Ming Dynasty.

Dananmen (Great South Gate), or the Yidou Gate, is especially worth mentioning. Standing at the southern end of the Dananmen Street in Yong'an Town, of Fengjie County, it controls the main road to the town. When the Three Gorges Project is finished, the whole

old town of Fengjie will be covered in water, and the new Fengjie County seat will be in Sanmashan, three kilometres to the west.

The White Emperor City

Located at the starting point of the Three Gorges, the town of Baidicheng (White Emperor City) is on the northern bank of the Yangtze River at the estuary of the Caotang River. It is surrounded by water on three sides and backed by a mountain, occupying a strategic position controlling both land and water routes to Sichuan and Chongqing in the west and to Jingxiang in the east. Originally named Ziyang Town, it was built by Gongsun Shu, a general under Wang Mang of the later Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—25), when he set up a separate regime in Sichuan at the

The Yong'an Palace where Liu Bei (161—223), the lord of the Shu Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms period (220—280), entrusted his son to Zhuge Liang (181—234) has been moved intact to the new Fengjie county seat.



In 2009, when the water level reaches 175 metres, Baidicheng (White Emperor City) will become an islet and the bridge in this photo will be submerged.

Since the ancient wall inscriptions along the Qutang Gorge are all below the second-phase water level, the State Department for Cultural Relics Administration decided to remove the wall inscriptions to a cliff over 175 metres high located in the lower stream 300 metres away. The inscriptions at Qutang Gorge will be reduplicated, cut and moved, or protected on the same spot according to their conditions. After the water is stored in the dam in June 2003, some of the inscriptions on the Whitewashed Cliff Wall are covered in water.



Workers were cutting out the most famous wall inscriptions of Qutang Gorge, the "Ode to the Resurgence of Royal Song Dynasty."



At 10:00 a.m. on June 3, 2003, many people took a boat to bid farewell to the ancient wall inscription before it was inundated.

time Wang was trying to usurp the throne. According to legend, there was a well in the city that emitted white mist like a white dragon flying up auspiciously. So Gongsun proclaimed himself to the White Emperor, and renamed it Baidicheng meaning the White Emperor's City.

The Whitewashed Cliff Wall at Kumen Gate

The Whitewashed Cliff Wall is the



engraved cliff face of the precipitous Mt. Baiyan (White Salt) on the southern bank of the Yangtze River at Kuimen Gate. It got this name because it was painted with grey powder at the time of engraving in the Song Dynasty (960—1279). The cliff is covered with 12 inscriptions from the Song Dynasty to modern times. The most famous is the "Ode to the Resurgence of the Royal Song Dynasty" located by the Phoenix Spring in the Qutang Gorge. It is 4.1 metres high, 7.2 metres wide, and 29.52 square metres in area.

It was written by renowned Southern Song Dynasty (1127—1279) calligrapher Zhao Gongshuo and engraved in 1171. There are altogether 948 characters, each 20 centimetres long.

Since 1997, engineers have done a lot of survey work on the stone carvings.

On October 22, 2001, they officially began to cut the stone inscriptions from the cliff and moved "Ode to the Resurgence of the Royal Song Dynasty" to its new home.

The Iron Posts for Blocking the River

On the stone basin at the estuary of the Caotang River on the northern bank of the Yangtze at the Kuimen Gate, there are two iron posts that can be seen only in the dry season every year. They are 2.3 metres high and 0.4 metre in diameter. The posts were cast on the

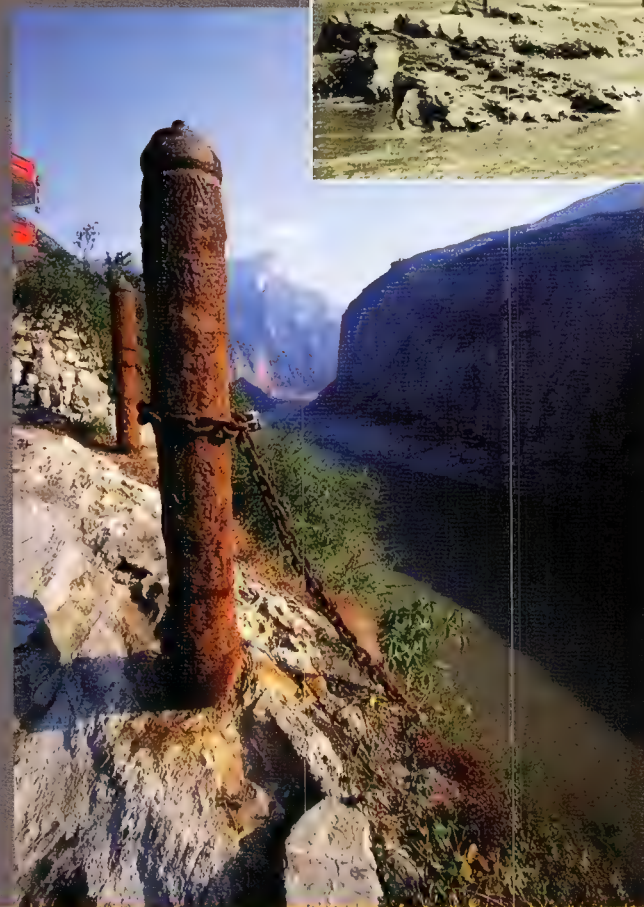
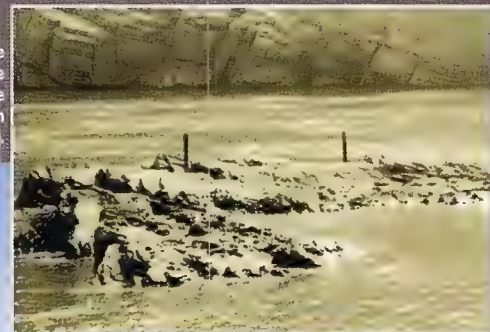
orders of garrison General Xu Zongwu in 1264 in the Southern Song Dynasty to stop the invading fleet of the Yuan army from the north. He placed seven iron chains, totaling 1,000 metres long to the iron posts

Passing ships knocked down the two posts in 1977 after they had stood at Kuimen Gate in the Three Gorges for over 700 years. Fortunately the upper half did not fall into the surging river. In 1998, the Baidicheng Museum moved the iron posts to the newly built Kuimen Ancient Elephant Museum and placed them by the river.

Badong

Situated in the wide Xiangxi valley between the Wuxia Gorge and the Xiling Gorge, Badong is 13 km from the Guandu Ferry at the

On the stone block located at the estuary of the Caotang River on the northern bank of the Yangtze at the Kuimen Gate, there are two iron posts visible only in the dry season.



The iron posts for blocking the river have been moved to a higher place.



Before the water storage, the Chinese characters meaning "Kuimen Pass" could be seen clearly. Now, the wall inscription and the ancient path are all submerged.

Bianyu Stream, which flows from the northern bank into the Yangtze, used to be a boundary river between Sichuan and Hubei provinces. There are four huge Chinese characters carved on a stone standing at the estuary of the stream 300 years ago by a Qing official, meaning "The wide gap between Sichuan and Hubei".



After the water is stored, Badong was among the first group of towns inundated. A new modern town has been built on the mountains in the upper reaches of the river not far from the old town.

Zigui

The old town of Zigui is located on the northern bank of the Yangtze River, some eight kilometres west of the Xiling Gorge.

The Zigui area was the cradle of the Chu Culture. In the

declining years of the State of Chu, Qu Yuan (340—278 B.C.), a famous Chinese patriotic poet, was born in this area.

After the building of the Gezhouba Dam, Zigui was in the inundated area. The Qu Yuan Memorial Hall was built at Xiangjiaping 1.5 kilometres from the county town. But after water was stored in the Three Gorges, half of the memorial hall, or formal Ancestral Temple of Qu Yuan, would have been submerged, so it has been moved again.

Yuepingli in Sanlu Commune, Zigui County, is Qu Yuan's birthplace, where there are many historical sites and legends related to Qu Yuan.

Hometown of Wang Zhaojun

The Xiangxi River at the western end of the Xiling Gorge originates in Shennongjia Mountain. It passes through Xingshan and Zigui counties before entering the Yangtze River on the eastern side of Xiangxi Town. It was from here that Wang Zhaojun went to the capital 2,000 years ago and became a famous imperial concubine. Wang Zhaojun, also named Qiang, was selected into the palace during the reign of the Han Emperor Yuanli. A girl of 18, she



Qiufengting (Autumn Breeze Pavilion) was built in 978 by the noted Prime Minister Kou Zhun of the Northern Song Dynasty. It will be moved to a new location upstream.

eastern end of the Wuxia Gorge. Holding a key position in the transportation link between Sichuan and Hubei provinces, it used to be a distribution centre for the mountainous region of western Hubei Province. Because its steep slopes make large-scale construction difficult, the town has never had city walls — the only town without any fortifications in the Three Gorges area.



volunteered to marry the king of Xiongnu (for the Han, an ancient minority nationality in China) to form friendly ties with the countries to the west. Before departure, Emperor Yuandi found that she was exceptionally talented and beautiful, but it was too late to keep her in the court.

Wang Zhaojun was born in Baoping Village by the Xiangxi River in western Xingshan County. Many historical sites and relics such as Zhaojun's



Baoping Village near Xiangxi (Fragrant Stream) was the hometown of Wang Zhaojun, an imperial concubine of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—24), who volunteered to marry the ruler of Xiongnu as part of a peace accord.



home, Nanmu Well, and the Dressing Table are open for visitors. There are 16 steps leading to the Dressing Table, signifying the 16 years Zhaojun lived here. The Nanmu Well, so named because of a piece of Nanmu hard wood built in it, is where Zhaojun used to fetch water.



There is a beach between Zigui ancient city and Xiangxi (Fragrant Stream), which legend says that it was where patriotic poet Qu Yuan (339—278) was buried. The beach was later named "Qu Yuan Bay" and built with the Qu Yuan Temple. Since the Tang and Song dynasties, the temple has been removed and refurbished for many times. It was rebuilt as the Qu Yuan Memorial Hall in 1976 due to the Gezhouba Key Water Control Project which caused the rise of water level. When the water level of the Three Gorges rises, the tomb of Qu Yuan will have to be removed.

SAVING THE CULTURAL RELICS

Many large gorges in the world are uninhabited, but the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River are one of the cradles of mankind and the origin of the ancient Sichuan and Hubei cultures over thousands of years ago. Unfortunately, most of those cultural relics would be drowned after the completion of the Three Gorges Project. To save the cultural relics, nearly 100 archaeological teams from more than 20 provinces came to the areas of Three Gorges Reservoir in a race against time. They spent one and half years completing the excavation work which would normally have taken 50 years. Even so, they could only excavate 1.9 million square metres of cultural relics out of the 25 million square metres area — only 8% of the total relics are saved while leaving the 92% down forever in the river!



The Daxi ruins, which date back 4,000 to 6,000 years, are the site of Daxi culture. The ruins of Daxi are famous for flexed burial. Archaeologists have several conjectures for the flexed burial: first, that the sleeping-like posture allows the deceased rest in peace; second, the posture imitates a foetus in his mother's abdomen, resembling the preparation for reincarnation; third, the dead were bound up to prevent their souls from escaping to harm the living. Yet, there has not a final conclusion.

The principal project of China's Three Gorges Museum, started in 2001, is scheduled for completion and opening at the end of 2004. The museum's exhibition halls will feature "The Natural and Cultural Histories of the Three Gorges", "The Quintessence of Cultural Relics Unearthed from the Three Gorges", and "The History and Culture of Chongqing". The results of the cultural relics salvage work will be shown in the museum — the best place to appreciate the time-honoured artifacts of civilization.

The Site of Daxi Culture in Wushan County

The Site of Daxi Culture is located in the eastern end of Outang Gorge in Wushan County. It is 45 km from Wushan County seat in the

An excavating site of the Daxi Culture. The site has been inundated after June 1, 2003, but the unearthed relics can be appreciated in the China Three Gorges Museum in Chongqing.

east, and 15 km from Fengjie County seat in the west. From 1959 to 1975, the Cultural Relic Archeological Teams excavated the site three times, covering an area of 5.7 million square metres including 208 tombs.

The Site of Daxi Culture is classified into two layers according to the quality and colour of the earth, the types of pottery and stoneware found, and the different ways of burial and funeral articles in the tombs. The archeologists believe that the lower layer belongs to the early stage of the Daxi Culture, and the upper layer, the later stage.

The discovery of the Daxi Culture shows that there was a regional culture in the Neolithic Age represented mostly by red pottery together with some coloured pottery in the middle and upper reaches of the Yangtze River area. According to radiocarbon testing, they date from between 4,400 and 3,300 B.C.



Daxi culture was originated in the Three Gorges area and Yangtze-Hanshui Plain (area around Sichuan and Hubei provinces) during the middle Neolithic Age. It featured a living style of fishing, hunting, and gathering.

The graves in the Daxi site overlap vertically, and are laid densely in lines. The graves are dug upright without any funeral objects. The deceased are buried individually, their heads facing south. They lay either straight or bent; among the bent are those on their backs, on their sides and on their stomachs. From the fact that over 200 tombs are concentrated in an area of 570 square metres, it can be affirmed that this was a public graveyard of a clan.

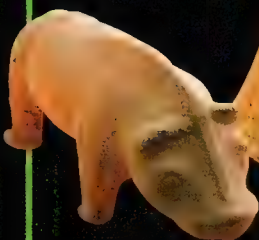
There is a notable difference in the nature of the society between the earlier and later layers in the Daxi Site. The earlier layer is associated with the prosperous stage of the matrilineal clan commune, and the later layer with the early stage of the patrilineal clan commune. Both the Daxi Culture and the Yangshao Culture in the Central Plains are different types of important anthropological remains from the Neolithic Age, so there are possible elements of mutual influence and exchange between them. It is generally believed in academic circles that the Daxi Culture and the Qujialing Culture are different stages of development of the same type of culture, and the Qujialing Culture developed from the Daxi Culture.

With the storage of water in the Three Gorges Dam, the Site of the Daxi Culture has been submerged and will never be seen again above the river.





Carrying kid
figurine (Han
Dynasty, 206 B.C.—
220)



Pottery bull (Han Dynasty)

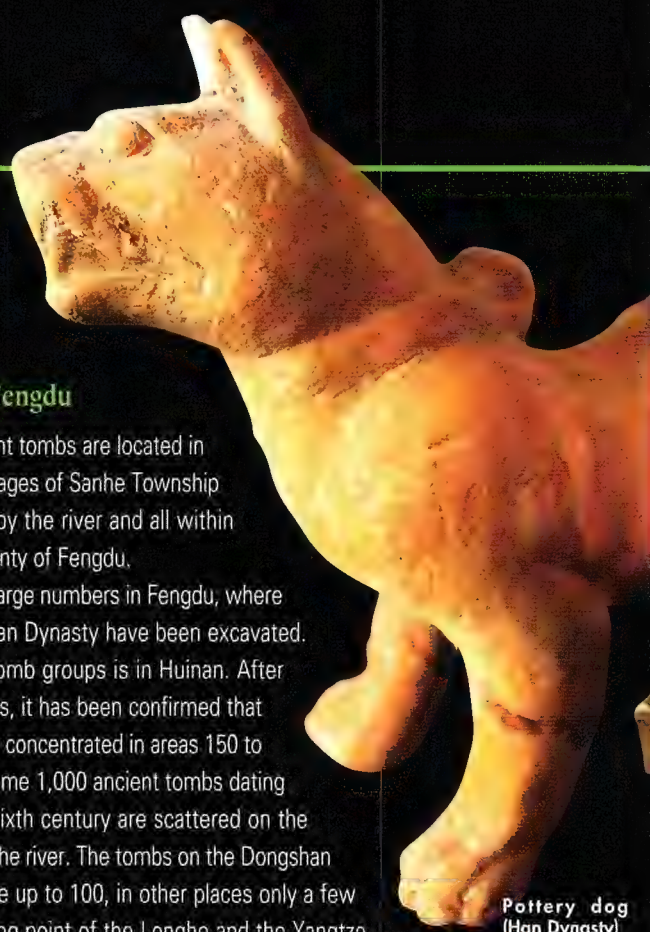
Ancient Tombs at Fengdu

The groups of Fengdu ancient tombs are located in Xinwan, Xiucui and two other villages of Sanhe Township in Fengdu County, Chongqing, by the river and all within the planned area of the new county of Fengdu.

Ancient tombs are found in large numbers in Fengdu, where several groups of tombs of the Han Dynasty have been excavated. The largest of the Han Dynasty tomb groups is in Huinan. After repeated surveys and explorations, it has been confirmed that the ancient tombs were densely concentrated in areas 150 to 195 metres above sea level. Some 1,000 ancient tombs dating from the Han Dynasty to the sixth century are scattered on the adjacent 23 mountain ridges along the river. The tombs on the Dongshan Ridge unevenly located in some places there are up to 100, in other places only a few dozen. Xinwan and Xiucui Villages — the merging point of the Longhe and the Yangtze Rivers — have the most densely concentrated tombs.

From October 1993 to October 2001, to save the cultural relics in the Three Gorges area and to promote the relocation to the new town of Fengdu County, a joint archeological team made six excavations of groups of ancient tombs in Huinan, from which the Cultural Relics Administration of Fengdu County excavated 168 tombs dating from the Han Dynasty to the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420—589), and unearthed about 10,000 cultural relics.

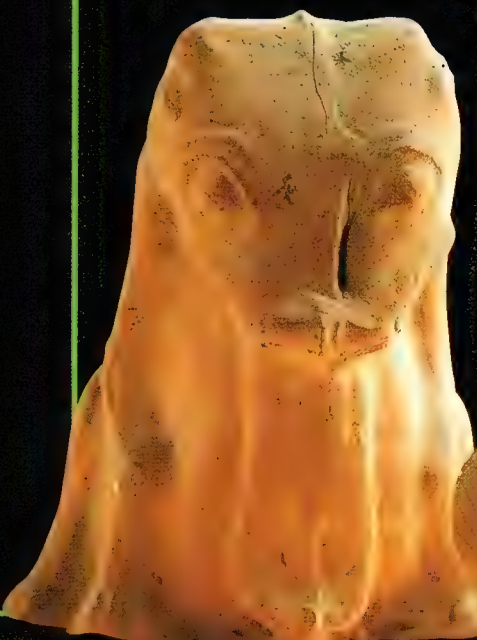
The pottery figures unearthed from the ancient tombs at Huinan are classified into human and animal tomb figures. The human figures include people dancing, listening to music, serving and fighting. The animals include horses, cattle, sheep, chickens and ducks.



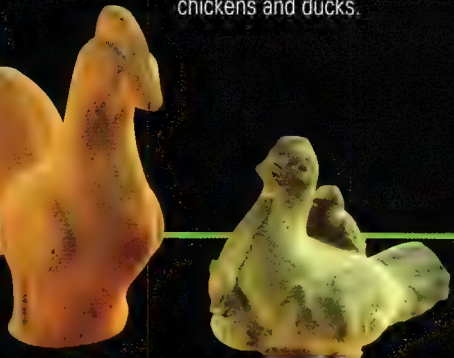
Pottery dog (Han Dynasty)



Stone relief. (The
Six Dynasties
220—589)



Tomb-guarding beast (Han Dynasty)



Pottery chicken and ducks (Han Dynasty)

Han Dynasty Tombs at Wuyang

In June 2001, Han Dynasty stone carvings erected in front of tombs were found on the riverside land in Jiangjun Village, of Wuyang Township, six kilometres from Zhongzhou Town in the southwestern Zhongxian County. The Chongqing Municipal Archeological Research Institute and the Cultural Relics Administration of Zhongxian County immediately made a detailed exploration on the spot. A large number of cultural relics were unearthed from the excavation covering 2,000 square metres from June to December 2001.



Belt hook (Warring States Period, 457—221 B.C.)

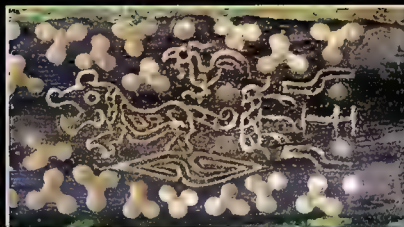
Warring States Period Tombs at Xiaotianxi

The group of tombs of the Warring States Period is located at Xiaotianxi in Chenjiazui Village, Baitao Township, Fuling of Chongqing. Twenty kilometres from Chongqing, it is a key spot for salvaging cultural relics in the Three Gorges Dam area. The group of tombs was first discovered in 1972, and excavated the same year. Fifty-four weapons, 41 articles for daily use, eight production tools, 37 musical instruments, and 52 other relics were unearthed. The ornamental designs on the copper ware are mostly of tigers, palms and flowers, typical of Hubei culture. Judging from the relics, it was probably a royal tomb of the State of Ba.

During the excavation in the autumn and winter of 2002, archeologists found another group of tombs of the Warring States Period. A large quantity of exquisite bronze and jade ware was unearthed. Some 100 pieces of funeral objects were found in the largest tomb, the owner of which, according to experts, was most likely the ruler of the State of Ba.



Detail of the copper sword with tiger pattern (Warring States Period)



Detail of the copper sword with tiger pattern (Warring States Period)



A copper sword with tiger pattern (Warring States Period)



Red pottery house (Han Dynasty)



Stone relief (The Six Dynasties)



Civilian official figurine (Tang Dynasty, 618—907)

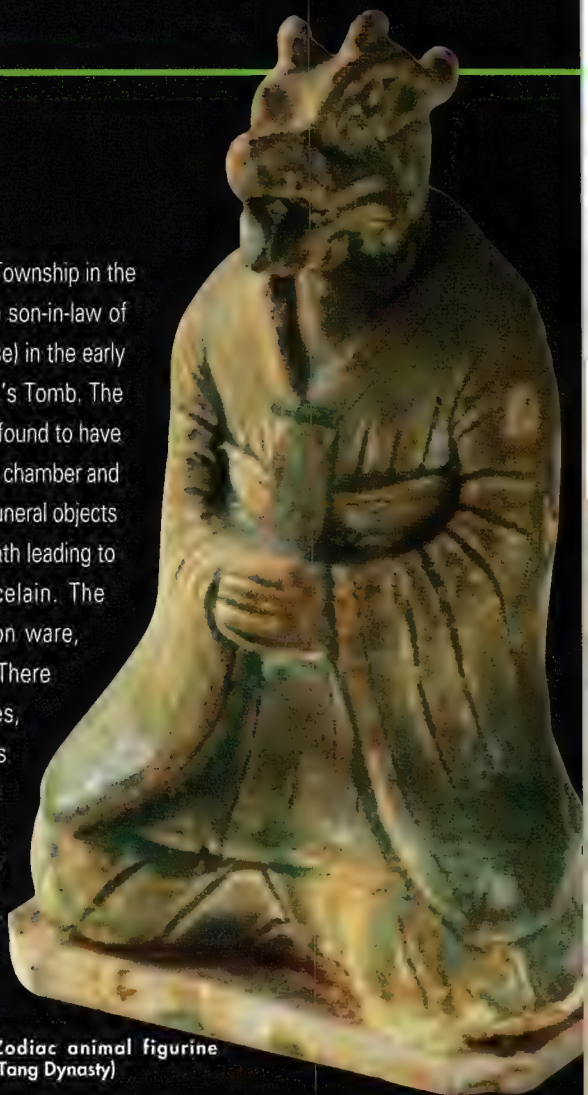
Civil servant on horseback figurine (Tang Dynasty)



Military officer figurine (Tang Dynasty)

The Tomb of Ran Rencai

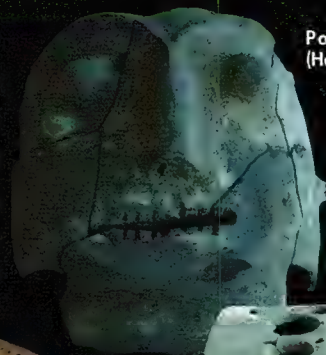
The Tomb of Ran Rencai is in Fuma Village, Fuma Township in the outskirts of Wanzhou District. As Ran Rencai was the son-in-law of the Hannan Prince (as called "fuma" in Chinese) in the early Tang Dynasty, the tomb is also called Fuma's Tomb. The tomb was first excavated in 1978, but was found to have been robbed and the funeral objects in the chamber and the four side rooms were gone. The funeral objects in the side rooms of the paved path leading to the chamber are mainly porcelain. The porcelain items are all celadon ware, mostly life-like tomb figures. There are human and animal figurines, and figurines with animal heads and human bodies. There are also utensils such as basins, plates, spoons, bottles and candleholders, as well as models of houses, tables, millstones and chessboards.



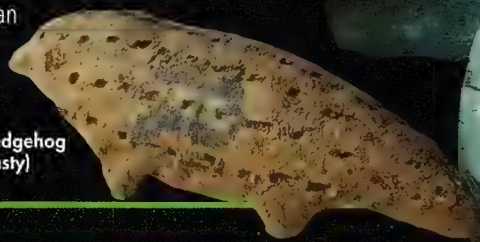
Zodiac animal figurine (Tang Dynasty)

The Tomb of Mai Tuo in Wushan

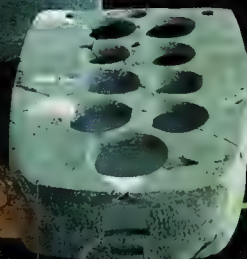
Wushan Cultural Relics Administration and Hunan Archeological Team unearthed three relics from this tomb, but found no memorial tablet or inscriptions, so the status of the deceased is still unknown. After examination and identification, archeologists found that it dated from the Han Dynasty.



Pottery mask (Han Dynasty)



Pottery hedgehog (Han Dynasty)



A nine-hole pottery cooking stove (Han Dynasty)

Han Dynasty Pottery Figurines in Fengjie Article by Yue Zongying

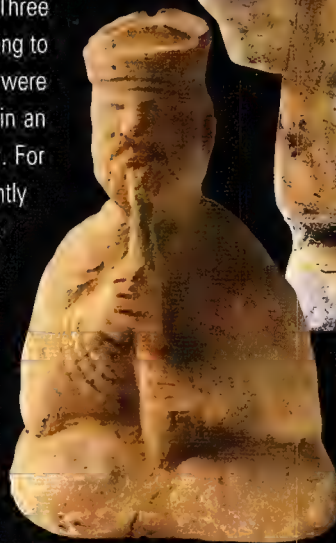
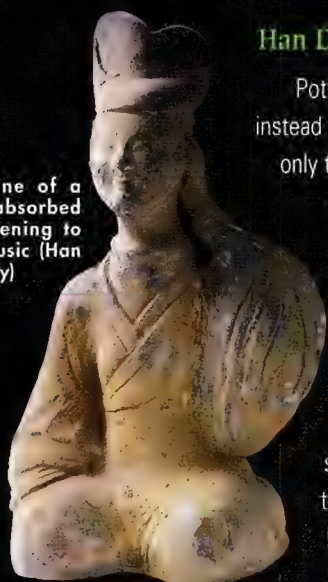
Pottery tomb figures are clay or wooden figurines buried with the dead instead of slaves. Filial piety was highly respected during the Han Dynasty, so only those who were recommended by the local administration as filial sons could serve as officials in the capital. Since lineage was connected with one's political career, an expensive burial for one's parents was the best way to show one's filial piety. Lavish funerals became common after the Qin and Han Dynasties.

The deceased were buried with whatever they used and enjoyed while they were alive. As the custom of burying slaves and animals alive had been abolished, models of the slaves and animals were made for the tombs, resulting in the tomb figures. In recent years, many such tomb figures have been unearthed in the Three Gorges area.

The Han Dynasty tomb figures unearthed in the Three Gorges area are great in number and in style. Some figurines are dancing or playing musical instruments, some working, while others reflect economic conditions and farming methods.... The tomb figurines represent all kinds of things and people in life. These figurines were made as separate parts first then put together, applying fine clay at the joins, which often left some scratch marks. For the detailed parts of a larger figurine, combined methods were used, such as modeling, moulding, heaping, pinching, pasting, carving and painting. The smaller figurines were usually made by kneading.

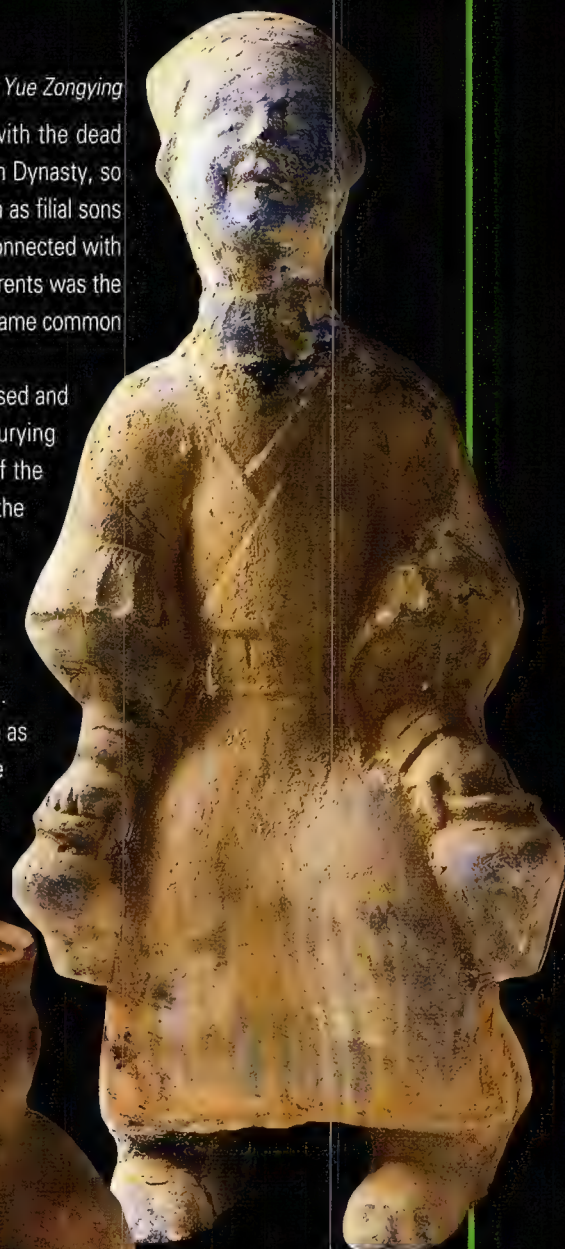
As in other areas, the Han Dynasty pottery figurines unearthed in the Three Gorges area are relatively small, so they have a freehand artistic style aiming to catch the spirit of the object instead of paying close attention to detail. They were often presented in exaggeration, charged with rich emotional colours, in an artistic style that is simple and unadorned, but full of vigour and charm. For instance, the figurine carrying a pot was only given an outline, but the slightly upturned face, the somewhat bended knees, and the smile on his face illustrate vividly his charming naivety. The figurine that is listening to music raises his left hand to feel his ear, his right hand pressing on his leg. It is almost touching to see him so absorbed, blind to everything around. The exaggerated face of the figurine blowing the bamboo flute is fully expressed by the movement of his mouth. They embody a kind of inner beauty with rich flavours of the life and times, reflecting the typical aesthetic taste of folk art.

Figurine of a man absorbed in listening to the music (Han Dynasty)



Carrying pots figurine (Han Dynasty)

Figurine playing a "xiao" (Chinese bamboo flute) (Han Dynasty)



MEMORIES OF LOCAL LIFE



The Yangtze catfish

People have lived by the Three Gorges for generations. These people are indomitable, romantic and loyal. These characters are lost now to the area with the resettlement of a million people. Many of their customs will change or fade away in their new environments.

According to legend, Ba Wuxiang, ancestor of the people of the Three Gorges, was exceptionally talented. He took his tribe to sail upstream with boats they had built in search of a land of plenty. They docked in the region of the Three Gorges where they settled. Ever since,

boats have been a common sight in the area and have been an inseparable part of the lives of the Ba people.

During low water season every year, the water becomes turbulent and waves are high, making it difficult to fish on the river. Fishermen take the opportunity to repair their boats.

Before building a boat, advice must be sought from a sorcerer to pick an auspicious day. Most of the places along the Three Gorges do not have access to electricity and so every process of the building job is done entirely by hand. People work from experience and have no blueprints. When the body of a boat is built, tung oil (China wood oil) is applied several times. Then the builders construct the cabin and deck, and apply paint. It usually takes four to five people nearly a month to complete a boat.

Though there are many large ships and speedboats cruising on the river, the flexibility and deftness of the small wooden boats are beyond compare. Especially in the valleys where the terrain is very difficult, large ships find it hard to move.

Almost all the households along the Three Gorges have their own boats. In the morning, children are ferried across the river

to school. Vegetable growers take their produce to sell in county towns by boat. Shepherds take their flocks to graze on the slopes on the opposite side of the river. The docks of the small towns along the river are busy with people going to visit relatives, to the market and to do business. They greet each other and chat, and once the boats are docked, they move aboard with great ease, unlike the hurrying urban dwellers trying to squeeze into underground trains. In recent years, people in the small towns on the river have gradually moved away. As a result, the number of boats has sharply declined.

Most of the boatmen live by fishing in the river. Sometimes they organize into a fleet to fish. Their entire families live and work on the river. They sail upstream and downstream. Each trip takes at least two weeks and can extend to several months. They keep the fish alive in the water cabin or take them to market either themselves or via shuttle ships.

The most commonly seen fish species in the Yangtze River include grass carp, a kind of large-headed carp, and catfish. The local



Happy is he who is content.



Each boat is indispensable to the boat dwellers.

people believe that fish from the gorges taste much better than those from the lower reaches of the river, because here near their home the flow of the water is more rapid and makes the fish move more actively. Fish that can survive in such an environment are bound to be tasty.

Since the completion of the Gezhouba Dam, fish stocks in the Three Gorges have drastically dwindled. Older fishermen told me that fish used to be their staple food, but now it takes several days before they can haul any in. There is more than one reason for the disappearing fish. Some people believe that the erection of the dam has stopped fish from swimming further upstream. The increasing

number of motorboats, worsening pollution, and illegal fishing with dynamite, electricity or even drugs have also seriously harmed the eco-environment.

Instead of fish, fishermen haul up a lot of plastic garbage, which is a big headache. Every day they have to spend hours cleaning their nets of the plastic. Seeing the seriousness of the pollution on the mother river, my heart ached.

Whenever I go to the Three Gorges on assignment, I always ask Mr. Zou to serve as the helmsman of my small wooden boat. With him on board, I feel at ease.

Rats on Board — Do Not Disturb

Once we discovered a rat on the boat. Everybody joined the chase to catch it. Only Mr. Zou remained standing with a disapproving look. We did not understand why until later when he told me that rats on the boat were creatures not to be harmed. Boatpeople in the past regarded the rodents as a kind of "immortal". They believed that rats could anticipate and would leave the boat before a disaster. So when people docked their boats and went home, they put a wooden plank between the boat and the dock and spread sand on it. If they discovered tracks indicating that rats had left the boat, the boatmen would not sail, or their boats might sink. They would only sail again after they saw tracks showing they had returned. Seeing how sincere Mr. Zou was, I refrained from asking further questions. Indeed in the past, faced with the turbulent river and many dangerous shoals and rapids, boatpeople had to entrust their lives to some magic spirit. The many taboos on the boats were introduced to allow them to find peace of mind. It is difficult for sailors today to fully understand the feelings of boatpeople in the past.



A little girl playing on the boat, is dressed in life jacket as her parents are catching fishes.



Rowing is a required course for the children of boat dwellers.

The Hard Life of a Yangtze Porter

People who have visited the Three Gorges have seen labourers on the docks carrying things on their shoulder poles.

In many towns near the

Porters with carrying poles and ropes can be seen everywhere on the banks of the Three Gorges, carrying heavy goods, walking with difficulty and getting wet through on the rugged streets and steep stone steps.



Three Gorges, infrastructure is very backward. In this mountainous area, paths twist and turn with many stairs. Much of the time, goods have to be carried. A rough estimate puts the number of people who make a living by carrying things for others at more than 200,000. Most of them come from the countryside and some are the descendants of boat trackers.

Mr. Wang, from Zhuxian Township in Wushan County, once carried camera equipment for me. He told me that at home a great number of people had very little farmland. He came out to make some money to support his two kids in school. He said: "I have to be very

economical, otherwise my kids will have no money to go to school. So long as they do well in school, I will support them to whatever level they want to reach. Studying in school will give them a good future, unlike me who can only work as a 'human mule'."

At 5:00 a.m. every day, Mr. Wang goes to the dock to wait for jobs. When a cargo ship arrives, the porters hold in their hands bamboo chips issued by the owners of the cargo, indicating how many times they have carried their cargo, and try to carry the heaviest load. All the way, they shout aloud as they move about, in order not to run into others. When a whole ship is either loaded or unloaded, the cargo



Carrying broken stones from the Yangtze River to sell.

owner pays them. Along the meandering lanes and streets where the stairs are wet and slippery, they move with great difficulty and stamina carrying heavy loads on their shoulders, sweating all the way.

Sometimes, they stop at a food stand by the roadside to buy a pancake for lunch. In the

evening they return to their makeshift dwellings to cook their dinner. They normally boil a big pot of noodles with cabbage, radish, ginger, pepper and chili to go with their pickled vegetables. Almost everyday they eat the same thing and always find it delicious. If there is another ship arriving in the evening, they return to the dock after supper.

Putting Their Backs into Their Work

I think when the new town is completed, dock facilities will be greatly improved and the roads will be wider and flatter to allow vehicles. Then people will gradually forget the "human mules". When that happens, how will they make a living? Mr. Wang answered: "So long as you're diligent, there will always be work to do."

Apart from the shoulder poles, there are also back baskets. Carrying baskets on the back is a unique phenomenon adapted to the environment here. It is no exaggeration to say that there is no other device that is more durable and useful than a back basket.

The baskets are woven from bamboo. In the mountainous region, people grow bamboo around their houses to provide an endless supply of materials for making baskets. People here are skilled in weaving bamboo baskets. Bamboo weaving specialists in the village are even more experienced and quicker. Baskets come in different shapes and sizes for different uses. For instance, there are baskets for carrying babies. There are also those to carry firewood or other goods. The baskets are wide at the top and narrow near the bottom. The side against the back is flat. To carry heavier loads, there are specially designed baskets. There are also accessories for walking on mountain paths with heavy loads. One is a T-shaped object made with tree branches. Small and simple as it is, one can use it as a walking stick. Or when tired and in need of a short rest, one can sit on it. Or one can rest the load on it to allow one's shoulders to rest.

Perhaps no one has studied the history of back basket. It is likely that once ancestors of the local people had chosen the Three Gorges as their home, they naturally invented tools adapted to the life here. Thus from generation to generation, people have become accustomed to having a basket on the back. Now in the great migration wave, they are

T-shaped stands are a must when carrying heavy things or climbing steps. It can be used either as a stick or for resting on when tired.



A porter at work.

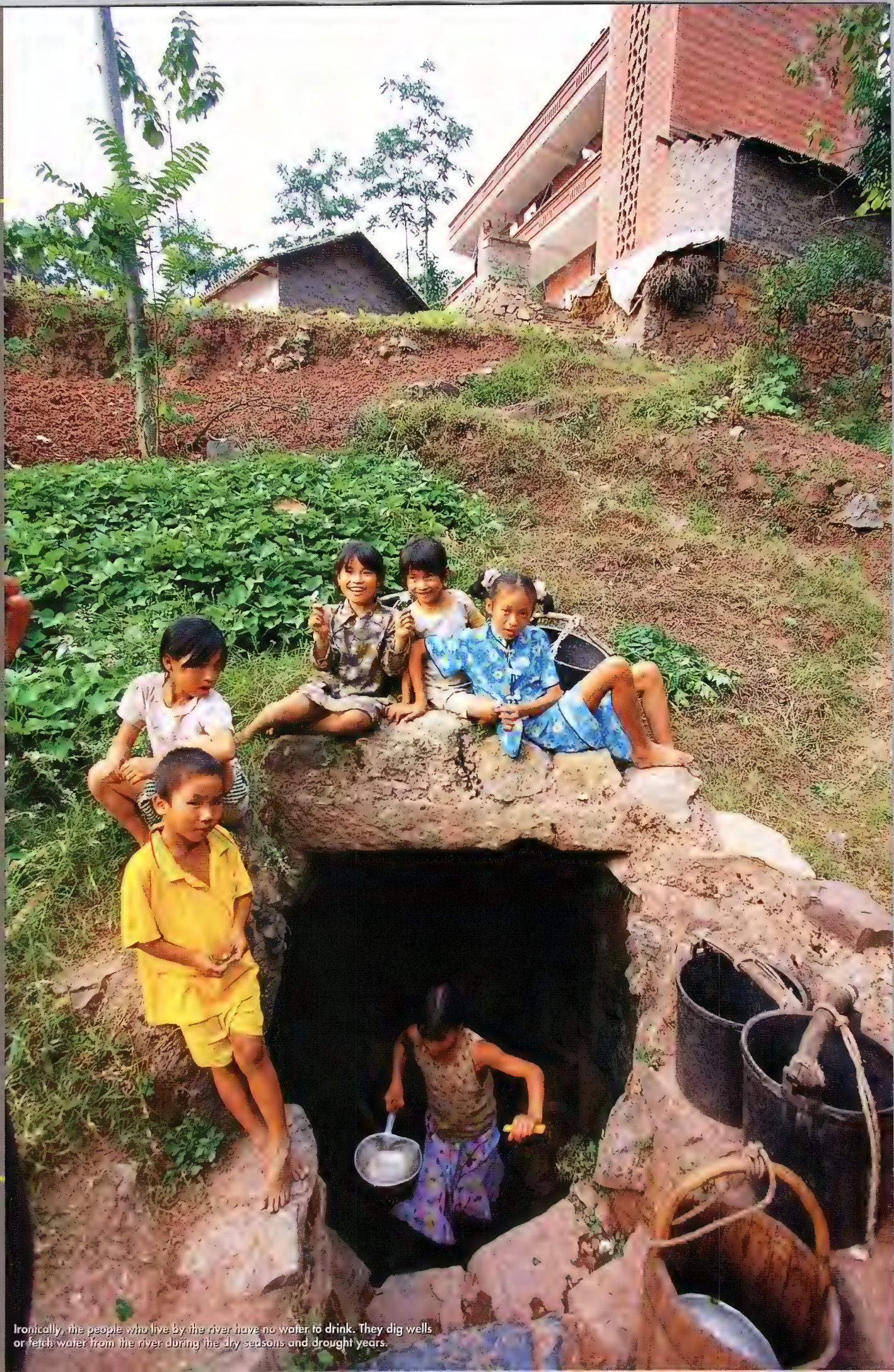
The back basket is well designed with its wide top and narrow bottom.



Back baskets are in different shapes and sizes for different functions, even large vat like this can be carried.



No other carrying instruments can be as load-bearing, labour-saving and durable as the back baskets.



Ironically, the people who live by the river have no water to drink. They dig wells or fetch water from the river during the dry seasons and drought years.

A peddler selling cold noodles and fermented glutinous rice at Wushan Pier.



leaving their hometowns and perhaps they are using their back baskets for the last time. Then they will gradually disappear and be forgotten.

Quenching a Thirst

The Yangtze River is the lifeline of the Chinese nation, but people living near it have trouble collecting adequate drinking water. To carry water from the river, they have to travel long distances across pebbles and rocks. I wondered why they did not divert water from the small rivers or water caves? Then I realized that only a small number of people lived on the mountains and any water diversion project would cost a lot of money. I have been to many towns along the river and visited many homes. They all tell me that the water from the big river, referring to the Yangtze, tastes better. People living high in the

mountains have to rely on rainwater.

They also build water tanks on the ground. Whenever my fellow photographers and I stay at villagers' homes, I keep reminding my colleagues to be economical with water.

I am not sure if the rainwater is potable with regard to hygiene, but I am convinced that the Yangtze is not so polluted that the water is no longer safe. But people in the region have to depend on either rainwater or river water.

The Wishing Trees

People living on both sides of the Three Gorges regard some of the rocks and old trees as sacred objects and almost every village has its own sacred rock and tree.

The worship of rocks is a most primitive form of belief. To

The locals living in mountains along the Three Gorges take old trees as gods. There is a "holy tree" almost in every village.



the fishermen here, the rock by the river on which they tie their boats is something they worship and ask for a secure life.

Sacred trees include different varieties such as cypress, chinaberry and teak. The worship of trees can be traced back to the antiquity. This primitive form of belief came out of a practical expression of the worship of god, which has no religious clerics or doctrine. In the eyes of ordinary people, sacred trees help them stay away from illness and disaster, and bring them fortune and a happy life.

During one of my trips to Xinping Village, in Benshi Town, as soon as I stepped into the village, I saw a tree standing on a hilltop. It was draped with red cloth, fluttering in the wind, demonstrating the magic

force of the tree. This was a chinaberry tree whose trunk was so thick that it needed three to four people with stretched arms to encircle it. Villagers who were there making wishes or coming back to thank the tree for fulfilling their wishes had tied red cloth of different lengths on the trunk and branches. By the tree was a stone niche for the statue of Buddha with offerings such as corn. Around the tree were thick piles of incense ashes, revealing its popularity.

Learning from a Child

Across a small river by the Black Stone Town, is a tiny village embraced by green hills of the Flying Phoenix Peak. Shrouded in fog and clouds, the meandering mountain paths and rural houses constitute a scene like a painting in a dream. We stayed in the home of a village schoolteacher named Huang. He and his wife were most hospitable, greeting us with tea, sunflower seeds, preserved meat and yams. Their two sons also got busy to help with the cooking.

Their six-year-old daughter Huang Qiong volunteered to be our guide. Seeing disagreement on our faces, she blinked her large eyes, saying she was familiar with the entire place. Her parents also assured us that she was capable of the job. As she walked in front

us, my heart danced with her little pigtails, ready to jump forward to help her walk steadily. In her, I have seen the hard working spirit, diligence and endurance of kids growing up in mountainous villages.

The place has no electricity and so people go to bed



A flat bamboo basket used for drying crops.

early. Perhaps we were very tired because of the walking during the daytime, I did not notice that it had rained during the night until I woke up the following morning. Rainwater had leaked into the house through the roof and the couple did not sleep during the night. They were busy cleaning water out of the house. Realizing this, we were full of regret.

The chilli produced in Wushan is very hot yet tasty.

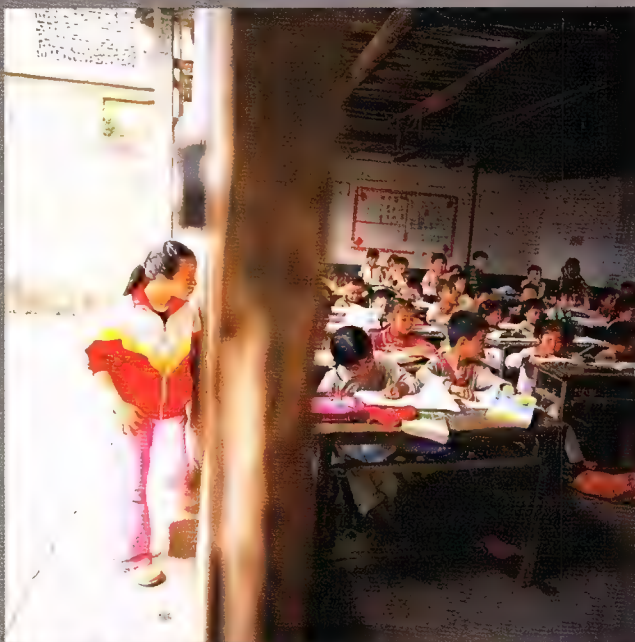


Drenched chickens ready for sale at the Wushan Pier.



Living by the Goddess Peak

Of the 12 peaks of the Wushan Mountain, the Shennu, or Goddess Peak is most famous. Mr. Niu lives in a valley near the peak. The first time I climbed the Goddess Peak, Mr. Niu acted as my guide. At night I stayed in his home. Mr. Niu Xiande is in his 40s and has a family of four. His daughter is in middle school at Wushan while his son goes to primary school in the mountainous region. He and his wife farm the land and raise pigs, busy from morning till night. He told me that at yearend, he would sell two pigs and the money would be his children's tuition for the next year. He also collects medicinal herbs to make money. Though he himself has no schooling, he is determined to send his children through senior high school, no matter how hard he has to work. His daughter has done well at school and the wall of their living room is pasted with certificates of awards and prizes.



Kids have to walk several hours through the mountains to school. This school was rebuilt from an ancestral temple.

she has won from primary school to middle school. His son has to walk more than three hours to school each day.

The Long Road to School

There are few schools in the mountainous region and most villages operate their own primary schools. The so-called village schools are just several rundown houses in desperate need of repair. Desks and chairs are all in very poor condition. Kids of different grades and ages are herded into one classroom. Teachers have to do more than just teach one class, for each school just has two to three teachers. Some schools have only one teacher. Going to school in the mountains is very hard, as children have to walk miles and cross rivers. Once they are through primary school, they may, if they have done well, go on to junior high school. Once they have done those three years, it is the end of school life for most kids. A few go on to senior high and may go to the county school if their finances permit. Getting into university for these kids is extremely difficult.

In recent years, society has paid increasing attention to education. The walls in the towns and villages often carry slogans like "No matter how poor we are, we should not allow poverty to affect our children."

Many parents leave their hometowns to work in other places in order to make money to support their children's study. Schools that had been closed are now open again. The walls of the classrooms have been whitewashed. With the Three Gorges project, many Project Hope schools have been established. Kids here finally are able to learn in bright and spacious classrooms.

Preserving Pork

Almost without exception, families at the Three Gorges raise pigs, from one or two to a dozen. Raising pigs is a hard job. To feed them, you have to wash sweet potatoes and cut them, process corn on a manually worked stone mill, and gather grass and cut it and boil it in a big pot. In a way, the pigs are fed only true green food. At the end of the year comes to the harvest season. A family will kill one or two pigs to make preserved pork. The rest they sell for money. Those living high on the mountain have to carry the pigs down and walk several hours before they arrive at the market. But selling pigs by the river is their major source of income.

The pork is marinated for four to five days. Then they are hung up with ropes made from reed leaves. The next process is smoking the meat. First cypress tree branches are used. Orange tree branches are added. People have found that meat smoked with these two types of trees tastes better. Then the meat is smoked



Killing pigs at the end of the year is a major event of every family.

In mountainous areas where transportation is inconvenient, locals usually see the doctors of traditional Chinese medicine in their own villages. Besides asking for the help from god, the doctors also use traditional Chinese treatments such as herbs, cupping, acupuncture, surgery, or setting a fracture to cure the patients. Nowadays, some village doctors adapt western medicines.



when people build fires to cook everyday. Such preserved meat can last for a year or even two years, which is most important in a region without electricity and where transportation is difficult. I guess it is the environment that has led them to preserve meat that farmers have through the entire year.

Along the Three Gorges, the kitchen of every household is hung with shiny preserved pork, which is easy to cook. Simply roast it on fire and then wash it. Now it is ready to be stir-fried, steamed or stewed.

Noodles are hanged and dried in the street.

STRANGE ROCKS OF THE THREE GORGES

The precipitous cliffs and rocks on both sides of the Three Gorges have been magically carved by nature over hundreds of millions of years, creating wonderful landscapes along more than 200 km of the river, and earning a reputation both at home and abroad. This beautiful strange long rock corridor will sleep deep under the water from June of 2003, but its stories will last forever.



Eroded by water for hundreds of millions of years, this rock has become a steep fluted cliff.



This piece of rock in Qutang Gorge looks like accumulated fish scales.



The Creator has spent hundreds of millions of years carving the rocks along the Three Gorges into unbelievable shapes.



With the rise of the water, these rocks in fabulous shapes have been submerged forever.

The wrinkled aqueous stones at Hengshi (Horizontal Rocks) Stream, 10 km downstream of Mt. Wushan, were created by the pressure of crustal movement.



More than two billion years ago, the Three Gorges were part of a huge sea. Crustal movements turned the Sichuan Basin into an inland lake. Some 70 million years ago, the Yanshan Movement took place. This large-scale crustal change squeezed the Sichuan Basin and the rocks at today's Three Gorges, giving rise to the slanting cliffs of the Qutang and Wuxia gorges and at Huanglingmiao, which were the early forms of the Three Gorges. The rise of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau resulted in the thrusting flow of the water into the Three Gorges area. About two to three million years ago, the Yangtze began to cut deep into the terrain and finally gave rise to the magically beautiful Three Gorges.

The Qutang Gorge marks the entrance into the Three Gorges. It is composed of limestone of the Triassic System. The Wuxia Gorge

consists of limestone of the Permian and Triassic systems that are tall and precipitous. The western section of the Xiling Gorge is made up of limestone and dolomite and the eastern section of limestone of the Sinian and Ordovician systems. The Three Gorges water control project under construction makes use of the long and slanting granite at Sandouping to serve as the solid base of the dam.

Most of the towns along the Three Gorges are named after stones, such as Black Stone, Horizontal Stone, Jumping Stone and Fiery Stone, indicating the close relationship with the rocks. Many of the scenic sites are also associated with rocks such as the Black Stone Gorge in Qutang Gorge, the Gold and Silver Armour Gorge in the Wuxia and the Military Book and Sword Gorge as well as the Ox Liver and Horse Lung Gorge in the Xiling.

RARE SPECIES AT THREE GORGES

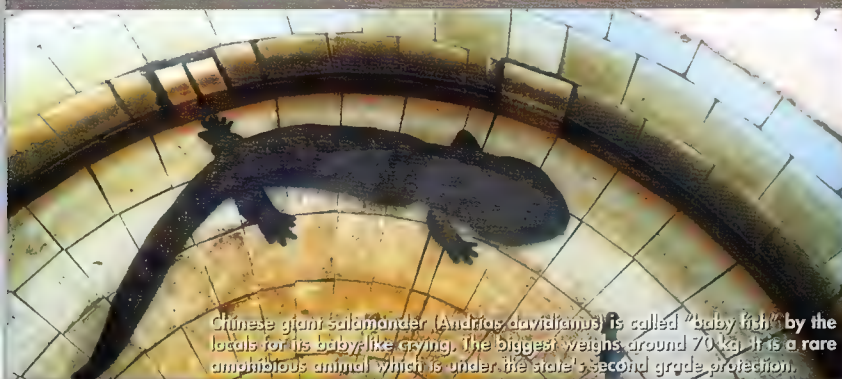
On the Yangtze River bed and in the forest areas on both banks along the river, affluent natural resources as well as rare species of animals and plants can be found. For example, the Yangtze sturgeon and Yangtze crocodile are listed under strategic protection of the country.



The Three Gorges Goats.



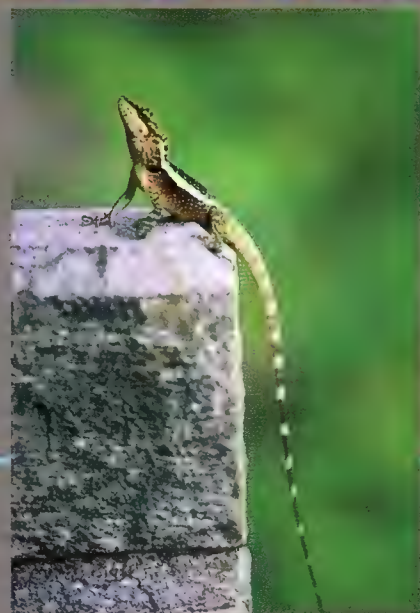
The Golden-Hair Monkey.



Chinese giant salamander (*Andrias davidianus*) is called "baby fish" by the locals for its baby-like crying. The biggest weighs around 70 kg. It is a rare amphibious animal which is under the state's second grade protection.



The Yangtze crocodile is under the state's first grade protection and listed as an endangered and contraband species internationally.



A lizard.



A Yangtze sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*) can be as long as seven metres, the largest freshwater fish. As it is of great scientific value in studying the source, evolution and geographical distribution of fishes, it is under the state's first grade protection.

TOURING THE NEW THREE GORGES

To visit the Three Gorges, You can sail from Chongqing downstream through the Three Gorges, or you can sail upstream from Yichang. When the water level in the reservoir reached 135 metres, the dangerous shoals disappeared. The water surface is now gentle and there is no up or down route difference. According to Chongqing Tourism Bureau, water in the reservoir has raised the water levels in tributaries, creating more than 120 islands. As a result, many sites hitherto hidden deep in the mountains will present themselves to visitors and add to the list of tourist sights.

■ Yichang

Spend one or two days in Yichang to visit the Chinese paddlefish aquarium (Admission: 20 yuan and open all day), Sanyou Cave (Admission: 35 yuan and open from 8:00 to 18:00) and the Three Gorges Dam (Admission: 55 yuan). Take bus No. 4 to the first two places. The Yichang International Hotel is rated with four stars and located on Yanjiang Avenue. Tel: (717) 622-7888

To visit the Three Gorges, buy a ticket for the ship at Dagongqiao. Then take the bus to Maoping from where you can sail upstream to see the Xiling Gorge first. The rise of the water level, and the disappearing of many dangerous shoals and rapids have reduced the feeling of being in a valley. In the Gorge of Ox Liver and Horse Lung, the rocks representing the liver and lung have been cut and moved away. To visit the hometowns of Wang Zhaojun and Qu Yuan, you can get off at Xiangxi, 77 km from Yichang. The original town has been totally dismantled and the new Xiangxi Town is just above the old town site. From the town, shuttle buses set out every day to Xingshan, hometown of Wang Zhaojun and Lepingli, home of Qu Yuan. The temple of Qu Yuan in the old Zigui county seat still stands. The Zigui Hotel on Qu Yuan Road is rated three stars. Tel: (717) 288-6189

■ Badong

Badong is 26.5 km from Zigui and can be reached by taking a ship across the Xiangxi Valley. The old county seat of Badong attracts visitors with the Autumn Breeze Pavilion (which is still standing) built by Prime Minister Kou Zhun of the Song Dynasty. Most of the old town is gone, but the place is full of people carrying back baskets. The new Badong county seat has both hotels and hostels. The Shennong Creek Hotel is rated two stars. Tel: (718) 422-8248

■ Shennong Stream

From Badong, are regular ships going to the Shennong Stream, 9 km away, to allow tourists a glimpse into the lifestyle of the Tujia ethnic minority. The trip to the Shennong Stream costs 100 yuan and the Shennong Stream Travel Agency is located in the Shennong Stream Hotel. Apart from this two-star hotel, there are several hostels at cheaper rates.

■ Wushan

Wushan is 58 km from Badong. Going by boat during day allows you to appreciate the graceful view of the Wuxia Gorge. Spend the night at Wushan and go to see the Lesser Three Gorges the following day. The three-star Wushan Hongdu Hotel is located on West Guangdong Road of Wushan County. The two-star Wushan Cloud Hotel stands on West Pinghu Road. Tel: (23) 576-7378

The cruise on the Lesser Three Gorges is 100 yuan, not including the rafting fee. If you want to go rafting, you can hire a small wooden boat to the Small Lesser Three Gorges on the Madu River, then take a wooden boat or rubber boat to return to the Madu, before heading back to Wushan.

■ Qingshi

The distance between Wushan and Qingshi is 15 km and at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. every day, there is a shuttle bus going to the small town. The bus fare is 5 yuan. On the way, it passes by the Gold and Silver Armour Gorge where you can view the "Three Gorges rock painting", a piece of nature's handicraft. You can spend the night at the town for 10 yuan.



■ Goddess Peak

To visit the peak, take a small ship from Qingshi to Sunjiawan. Make sure you hire a guide. The peak is about a thousand metres above sea level and the narrow and zigzagging road makes it very difficult to climb the mountain. You have to be well prepared with mountaineering gear and plenty of drinking water.

■ Goddess Creek

From the boat, you can see nine of the 12 peaks at Wushan and on the Fairy Creek, you will be able to see the other three, known as Clean Alter (Jinglan), Rising Cloud (Qiyun) and Ascending (Shangsheng). The raising of the water level allows the boat to sail directly into the creek. There are two shuttle boats between Qingshi and Wushan, at 9 - 10 a.m.

■ Daxi

Further upstream you will arrive at Daxi, 26 km from Wushan. The boat ride takes a little more than an hour and costs 12 yuan. The original ancient sites have all been submerged while calligraphy on the cliffs has been relocated a little distance downstream.

■ White Emperor City

Admission: 60 yuan. You can go by bus from the Sanmashan passenger dock in the new county seat. (The road is under repair till June 20 and transportation will resume in early July.) Fare: 10 yuan. Hiring a fishing boat to Baidi Town from near the new dock is recommended. The daily charge is 100 to 130 yuan and negotiable. The advantage is that after visiting the Baidi Town, you can continue on the same boat to see the newly relocated cliff calligraphy and then go and see the beauties of the Fengxiang Gorge and the remaining sections of the ancient plank path. The Kulimen Hotel in Fengjie New County is rated three stars.

■ Heavenly Pit and Earthly Chasm

The world's largest natural pit is 50 km from the new county town of Fengjie. The pit is 4,000 metres in circumference and 800 metres deep. The crack is 35,000 metres long. This newly discovered site is certainly worth visiting. You can take a bus from the bus depot of the new county seat. The drive takes two hours and the fare is 15 yuan. Admission fee for the scenic site is 30 yuan. Hotels near the dock have easy access to transportation. There are many private hotels with relatively cheap rates from 10 to 60 yuan. Others include:

Phoenix Hotel (three-star): Twin-bed room: 170-280 yuan; Huang'an Hotel: Twin-bed / three-bed room: 80-150 yuan; Tianranju Hotel: Twin-bed / three-bed room: 60-90 yuan.

Outside the Three Gorges, you can take a ship at Fengjie, live and eat on the ship, which is a less expensive way of travel. Along the way you can see the Temple of Zhang Fei (Admission: 20 yuan), Shibao Fort (Admission: 30 yuan), the Ghost Town of Fengdu (Admission: 55 yuan) before you finally reach the city of Chongqing.

■ Temple of Zhang Fei at Yunyang

The temple has been relocated and will open on July 18. Take a shuttle boat at Fengjie, and arrive at the dock of the new county seat of Yunyang in three hours. You will have to switch to a ferry to the south bank where you go up along the stairs to the temple. Admission: 20 yuan.

At night you can check into the Panshicheng Hotel. Tel: (23) 556-2888



Translated by L. Yu, F. Huang



“Because It Is There”

50 Years After the Historic Ascent of Mt. Qomolangma

Photos by Ding Yi, Suolang Luobu, Duoji Zhandui, Xun Chengyi, & others Article by Zhou Zheng



The first time man conquered the world's highest mountain — Mt. Qomolangma at 8848.13 metres above sea level was on May 29, 1953. Fifty years have passed and expeditions from around the globe have continued, for no particular reason other than “Because it is there”.

Mt. Qomolangma is situated at the eastern end of the central Himalayas—the world's tallest and longest mountain ranges. The peak is around 450 km southwest of Tibet Autonomous Region's capital city, Lhasa, on the border of China and Nepal.

Mt. Qomolangma is often compared to the North and South Poles, hence its moniker as the world's third pole. "Qomolangma" is the ancient traditional name for the peak, "Qomo" means goddess, while "Langma" is a Tibetan term for young girl. According to Tibetan Buddhist sutra, like many peaks in the Himalayas, Mt. Qomolangma has always had its own name since ancient days.

Until the end of November 2002, alpine explorers from all over the world have climbed Mt. Qomolangma 420 times. The number of people who have reached the pinnacle is 1,200. All in all 42 different routes to reach the top have been devised.

The Race to be First

In 1921, the British led the first assault on Mt. Qomolangma from Tibet via the northeast ridge. Thereafter six attempts were made in 1922, 1924, 1933, 1934, 1936 and 1938. In 1922 and 1924 the altitudes reached were 8,576 metres. Three climbers (George Leigh Mallory, Andrew Irvine, Howard Somervell) failed to reach the top due to insufficient oxygen supplies or problems with their oxygen canisters. In 1924, Mallory (1886—1924) and Irvine (1902—1924)—two Englishmen who had already scaled heights of over 8,000 metres—vanished. At that time, the British are no strangers to the route up Mt. Qomolangma via the northeast ridge.

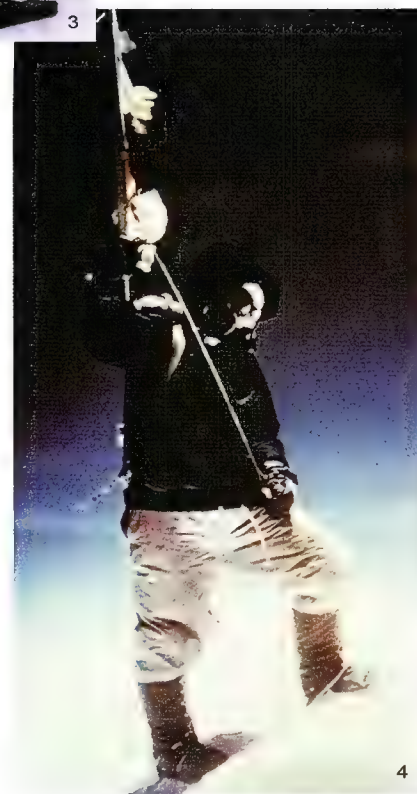
The British were still anxious to conquer Mt. Qomolangma. In March 1953, they arrived at the Nepalese side of Mt. Qomolangma's south edge. They hired over 120 Sherpas guides and porters, who had a few months earlier assisted the Swiss in climbing the 8,600-metre southeast ridge of Mt. Qomolangma. Finally the climb was

successful on May 29. This was a miracle of mountaineering at the time. In May 1953, on Queen Elizabeth's coronation, the British team presented their triumph as a tribute to the queen, which was received with great fanfare. However, neither of the two victors was British: one New Zealander Edmund Hillary (1919—), the other was Tenzing Norgay, a Nepalese Sherpa (1914—1986).

Chinese Climbers Made Three World Records

In July 1958, 100 Soviet mountain climbers wrote to the leaders of China and the Soviet Union, Chairman Mao Zedong and Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev respectively, requesting a joint Sino-Soviet Joint Mountaineering Team to climb Mt. Qomolangma. The request was granted and preparations were almost complete, when, in November 1959, the Soviet government broke the agreement for political reasons and China had to go it alone.

At the time China had suffered three consecutive years



1. Mt. Qomolangma soaring into the clouds — an intoxicating image for climbers (by Sun Chengyi)
2. The Chinese map circa 1721 now stored at the library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, clearly shows in Chinese "Mt. Qomolangma" (red box) (by Ding Yi)
3. New Zealander Edmund Hillary became the first man to reach the top of Qomolangma on May 29, 1953
4. Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, who first summited Mt. Qomolangma with Hillary, with the British and the Nepalese flag

of drought and famine, but the government still allocated US\$700,000 from almost empty coffers and sent the writer and his colleague to Europe, in order to learn tactics and techniques to climb Mt. Qomolangma and other peaks above 8,000 metres, as well as to buy equipment. In mid-March 1960, the gear was assembled in Prague and a special plane sent from China to freight the six tons back to Beijing, then transferred by the air force to Lhasa. By this time, the mountaineers who were already at Mt. Qomolangma Base Camp began acclimatizing and training.

After three trips, the team had lost many of its members, the team leader and the deputy leader both left. The camp at 8,500 metres elevation had no food and no oxygen canisters, but the commander showed steely determination and almost eerie confidence. He selected four climbers—Wang Fuzhou, Gong Bu, Qu Yinhua and Liu Lianman. They finally broke through the 8,670-metre “second stage”, and summited in the starlight.

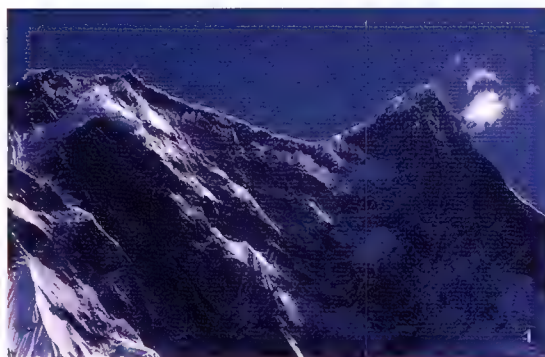
In this climb the Chinese mountaineers made three world records: 14 hours without

oxygen support above 8,600 metres; going from 8,600 metres to the top at night; and reaching the peak from the northeast route.

Hornbein Discovered the North Face Couloir

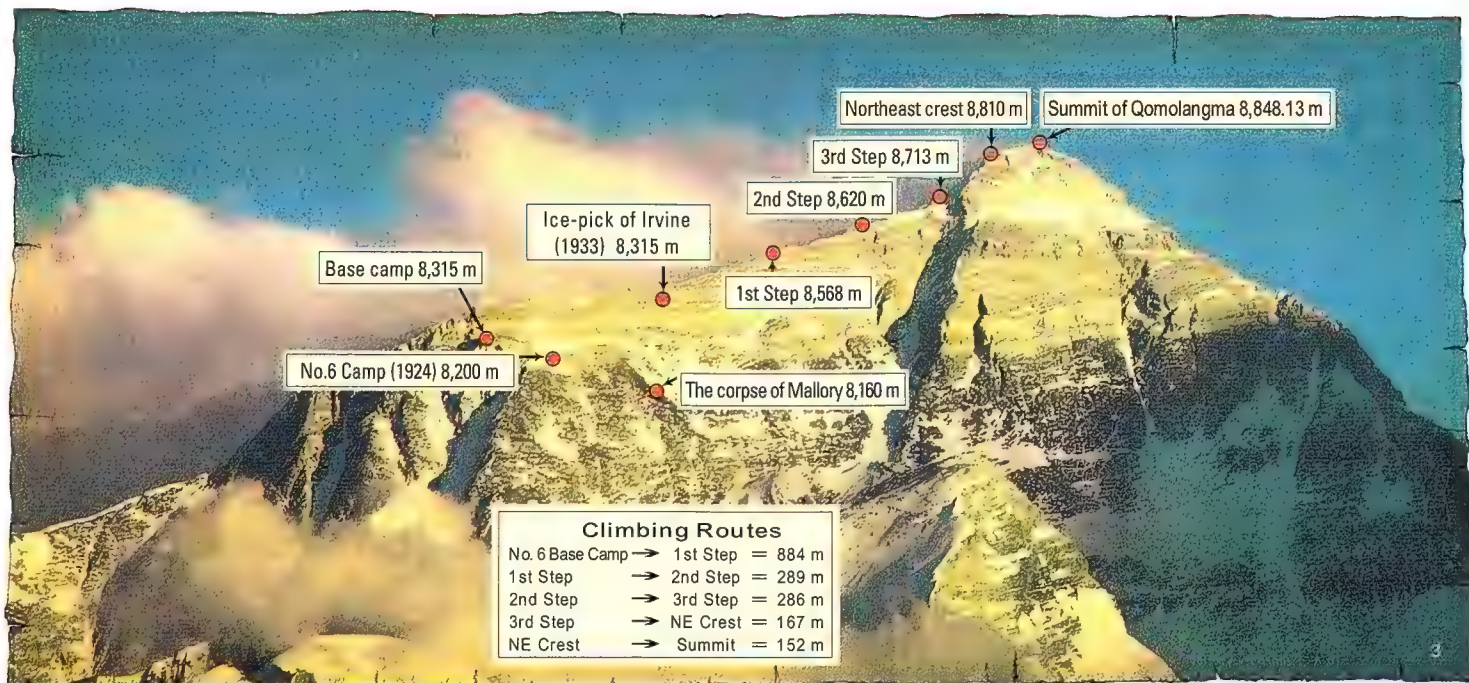
In April of 1963, Norman G. Dyhrenfurth led a 20-man American expedition to ascend Mt. Qomolangma. The team was a Who's Who of outstanding American mountaineers, including Dr. Thomas Hornbein (1930—), Willi Unsoeld (1926—1978), Jim. W. Whittaker, Tilman, and William. The expedition came at a cost of US\$400,000 and employed around 909 Sherpas to carry the 27 tons of equipment. In size and scale it was the world's grandest mountaineering expedition.

The US team split into two, one group used the route proved by the Swiss and British—along the Khumbu Glacier, past the south slope of Mt. Lhotse to the South Col, then heading for the summit along the



southeast ridge. This group was further separated into two teams, one in front and one at back. The first team led by J. W. Whittaker had a smooth journey, reaching the top at around 1 p.m. on May 21, while the latter team with L.G. Jerstad and B.C. Bishop departed on the morning of May 22 and ascended the peak at 3:30 p.m. Another group headed for the pinnacle via the west ridge, from the Luola Pass just below Khumbu Glacier. This group consisted of Hornbein and Unsoeld, who got to 8,305 metres and found the west ridge too awkward with the punishing wind. Then Hornbein discovered a couloir that split





through the ominous sloping bands of rock, heading for the summit. The two climbers spent the night at wind-sheltered No. 5 Camp. On the morning of May 22, Hornbein's group persevered up the ravine; at this time the second team with Jerstad who'd climbed up via the southeast ridge was waiting for Hornbein's team near the summit. It wasn't until the afternoon that Hornbein's group saw the US and Nepalese flags already on the mountain peak, but the strong wind and -28°C meant the team regrouped at the top and descended via the southeast ridge.

The US team achieved their goal for the first time, two lines of ascent were made and they joined forces at the pinnacle. This was the seventh team to ascend the summit since the Second World War. The only fatality during the expedition was 27-year-old Jake Breitenbach who died in the Khumbu icefall while leading a reconnaissance team.

1. The South Col—a pass between Mt. Qomolangma (right) and Mt. Lhotse (left)
2. In 1975, the Chinese team advances on the slopes of Mt. Qomolangma via the North Col
3. The British started the northeast route to the top of Mt. Qomolangma. On May 25, 1960, Chinese mountaineers Wang Fuzhou, Gong Bu and Qu Yinhua, finally got to the top via this route
4. The 1924 disappearance of Mallory and Irvine was the biggest mystery in the history of the mountaineering world
5. The body of Mallory was still frozen solid at the time of discovery



The Mallory-Irvine Puzzle

One of the greatest mysteries of mountaineering that had baffled experts for 75 years was finally solved in 1999, when the world finally learned what had become of George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine in 1924.

Mallory, who is credited with the famous words "Because it is there", was a high school teacher who graduated from Cambridge. Irvine was a third-year university student at Oxford. In 1924, the two outstanding mountaineers and explorers, disappeared during the Mt. Qomolangma ascent from Chinese Tibet. They were key climbers in the third British Mt. Qomolangma exploration team.

Their disappearance gave rise to speculation among climbing enthusiasts in Europe and America that they could have summited Mt. Qomolangma and met their fate on the way down. The British have long proclaimed that if it could be proved that Mallory and Irvine reached the world's highest peak, then the history of alpine exploration should be rewritten. But others believed that they couldn't have passed the second step and therefore couldn't reach the top. The "Mallory-Irvine Puzzle" became a conundrum for the climbing world for over 70 years and one that added to the mystery of the world's tallest peak.

In late April, 1999, the American Foundation for International Mountaineering, Exploration and Research sent an 11-man investigation team headed by Eric Simonson. With help from China's Tibet Autonomous Region and the Tibet Mountaineering Association, they discovered Mallory's body on a gentle slope below the first step, 8,100 metres above sea level. Seventy-five years had passed, but the deep snow cover meant the corpse had frozen and dehydrated completely, so he looked as if he had died not long ago. Beneath his body was his sleeping bag—long decomposed—holding correspondence between the climber and his family, and his personal belongings, some bearing the name "Mallory".

Mallory's body and belongings proved that the two climbers did not pass the treacherous second step. Instead they were on their way down from the second step, with extra oxygen already used and enormously fatigued, both had slipped and fallen to their deaths around the first step.

The 75-year old puzzle was solved.



Japanese Ski Down the Mt. Qomolangma Slopes

From 1965 to the end of 1968, alpine exploration of Mt. Qomolangma remained at a standstill due to the frequent robbing of climbing teams that put mountaineers off. It wasn't until the Nepalese government noticed a slide in fiscal revenue and improved safety within its borders, that the Nepal side of the Himalayas began attracting climbers again.

In May 1970, a 39-man team, led by the president of the Japanese Alpine Club, 71-year-old senior mountaineer, Saburo Matsukata Mazukara Sanro, came to climb Mt. Qomolangma.

The Japanese team imitated the 1963 US team's ways: two groups, one climbing to the South Col via the Khumbu icefall, then for the top via the southeast ridge; another group headed left from the mid-reach of the Khumbu icefall, ascending the southwest wall of Mt. Qomolangma and reach the summit, this was to be the start of a difficult and treacherous route. To ensure success, they took special oxygen equipment that would help the climbers at elevations above 8,000 metres.

The ski team of 10 people (including Otsuka) made its way up via the southeast ridge and summited on May 12 with the help of over 150 Sherpas. The skiing team headed by Miura Yuichira found it impossible to advance further after reaching the South Col,

which is 8,000 metres above sea level. So they skied down from there. It only took an hour to ski to the camp at 6,400 metres elevation, but the icefalls thereafter made it impossible to ski.

The Japanese climb and the 1963 US expedition all heralded a new era in the conquering of Mt. Qomolangma—new means and new routes, more difficult and more challenging.

International Teams: A Recipe for Failure

In 1971, a 13-nation international team made up of 32 members and led by American Dyhrenfurth was formed. (The 13 countries were the United States, Japan, India, France, Britain, West Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Argentina, Spain, Poland, Nepal.) They set up base camp at Khumbu icefall, 5,350 metres above sea level on April 18.

Again dividing into two groups, one made for the summit via the west ridge, while the other took the route via the southeast ridge, but since mid-April, the weather had been unpleasant. The Indian Major, Harsh Bahuguna, who was leading the team on the west ridge route, died of hypothermia at the 7,200-metre mark, which caused chaos.



Some team members were ready to withdraw, while others insisted on persevering, but no consensus could be reached after two days of talks. The two French climbers returned first, and on May 3 Dyhrenfurth and others also headed for Kathmandu. Three Japanese, three Americans and two Frenchman resumed the journey, but only Japanese mountaineers Naomi Uemura and Ito reached 8,380 metres. The relentless snowstorms meant they also beat a retreat. The climbers along the southeast ridge also had to pull back when they got to 8,500 metres due to the snowstorms.

The Italians: Mountain Climbing or Military Exercise?

The spring of 1973 saw an Italian military mountain climbing school (who train alpine troops) form a 64-man Mt. Qomolangma climbing team led by its principal Guido Monzino. And comprising officers from the army, navy and air force, police and customs. Bringing with them three military helicopters, five snowfield transport vehicles as well as a plethora of modern equipment. All food and equipment at the camps were transported by helicopter, while hard to reach areas were serviced by transport vehicles and teagles. The huge expedition also hired around 1,500 Sherpas to act as guides and porters. Luckily they encountered good weather. The nine-man team, including Rinaldo Carrel and Mirko Minuzzo, summited Mt. Qomolangma from the southeast ridge route. This was the summit attempt with the most number of



successful climbers by the end of 1973. The first person to ever conquer the peak, Sir Edmund Hillary, who was the New Zealand Ambassador to Nepal, was invited to tour their base camp and opined that it was more like a military exercise than the sport of mountaineering.

First Woman on Top: Junko Tabei

In the spring of 1975, 15 Japanese women came to the Nepalese side of the Khumbu icefall. Mrs. Eiko Hisana was in charge of the team. The all-female team enlisted the help of over 50 Sherpas as guides and porters. The plan was to reach the pinnacle via the South Col and the southeast ridge. On May 1, they reached the South Col at 8,000 metres, according to plan. But on May 4, a sudden avalanche buried the No. 2 Camp, which was set up below the South Col, injuring 11 Sherpas, and burying most of the food.

Team members who had already reached 8,000 metres, Junko Tabei and Sherpa Ang Tsering, assessed the food and equipment they had with them. Assured they could make it to the top, the two decided to go on. On May 16, they set up the No. 6 camp on the southeast ridge at 8,500 metres. On the morning of May 19, they progressed in knee-deep snow and reached the summit at 1:30 p.m. Junko Tabei became the world's first woman to make it to the top of Mt. Qomolangma.

The Exact Height of Qomolangma

In the spring of 1975, the second Chinese team set off for Mt. Qomolangma, comprising 439 people, including 36 female climbers in the 179-strong climbing team. The other 255 members were scientists in medicine, physiology, meteorology, physics, geology, topography, glaciology, and surveying, in

addition to journalists and support personnel.

This climb drew upon the experiences and lessons from 1960, and put scientific research on the agenda, in particular measuring precisely Mt. Qomolangma's height. Before this, Mt. Qomolangma had five different heights: 8,888, 8,882, 8,848, 8,840 and 8,852 metres. The Chinese should know the exact height of a Chinese mountain peak, so precision surveying was held as a critical aim of the mission. Moreover, the contingent sought to detail changes in human physiology at different elevations, Mt. Qomolangma's geological formation, and other data.

At 2:30 p.m. on May 27, Tibetan team leader Phantog led nine people—Suonan Luobu, Luoze, Sangzhu, Da Pingcuo, Gongga Basang, Ciren Duojie, Abugin and Hou



Shengfu to the top of the world. Phantog was already 37 years old and a mother of three.

At the summit, the nine members spent 90 minutes carrying out physiological and meteorological experiments, and collecting rock and ice specimens. More importantly, they erected three-metre-high red surveyor's beacon at the peak. When the surveyor's beacon were put up, surveyors were already waiting on 10 surveying points set on the mountain at elevations of 6,300 metres and 5,600 metres. They targeted their measuring lens at the red surveyor's beacon and



1. The yak transport team carries equipment for the explorers (by Suolang Luobu)
2. Tibetan female climber Gui Sang (right) with Russian climber Icarina Ivanova on top of Mt. Qomolangma on September 10, 1978
3. Gui Sang, China's second female climber to summit Mt. Qomolangma, was already 37 years old and a mother of three. This photograph of her and her son was taken before she joined the five-nation female mountaineering team to climb the 8,012-metre-high peak of Shishabangma
4. In 1975, the Chinese team put up a metal ladder on the steep and dangerous second step, which ensured the expedition's success and became a safe passageway for alpine explorers of all other countries. It's affectionately termed the "Chinese Ladder"
5. In 1975, the Chinese team set up the "Chinese Surveyor's Beacon" at the top of Mt. Qomolangma, and measured the height of Mt. Qomolangma as 8848.13 metres, the first scientific measurement of the world's highest peak



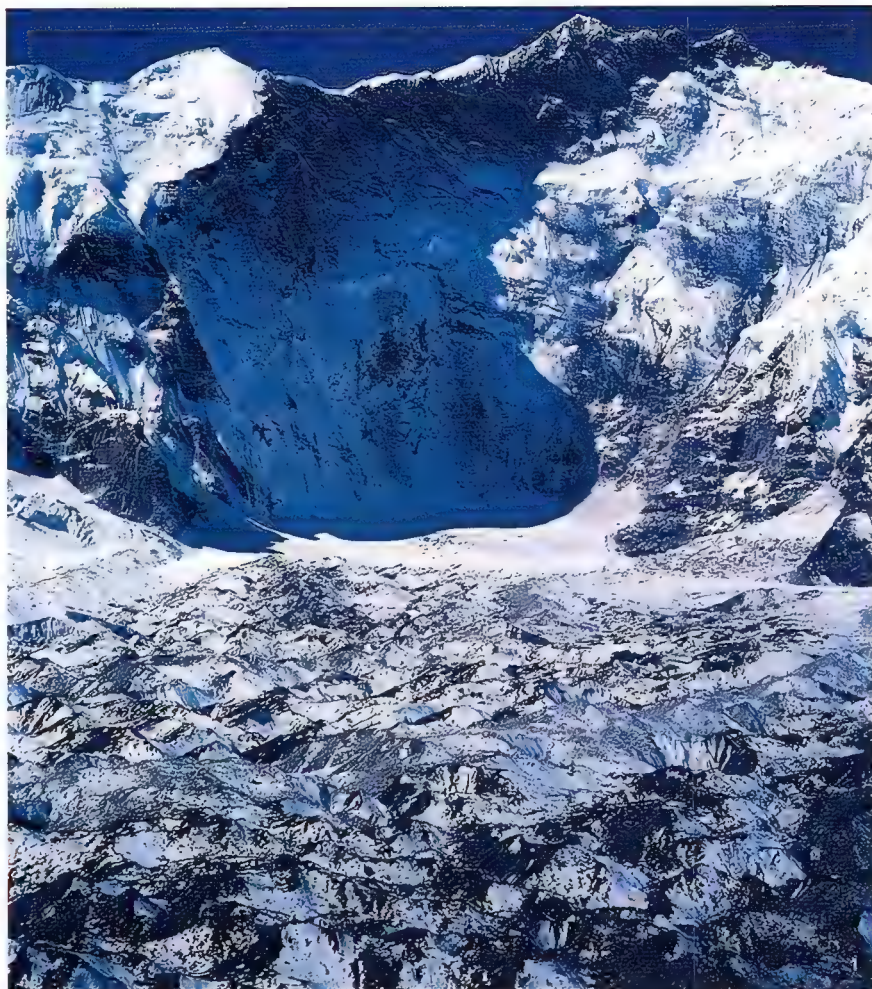
finally officially declared the exact height of Mt. Qomolangma as 8,848.13 metres. This was a credit to the Chinese surveyors and of great value to the world's science circles.

Two other achievements marked this successful ascent. One was that it was without death or injury. The second was the retrieval of the items buried by the first successful Chinese summiteer Wang Fuzhou. It was unearthed from the pile of rocks around nine metres from the northeast corner at the peak and taken back to Beijing. To mark the ascent they left another two permanent red survey posts, which would later become proof of other mountaineers' ascents, while the metal ladder set up on the second step provided safety and convenience for many a mountaineer to come. Even now, mountaineers from all over the world still refer to it as the "Chinese Ladder".

Americans: Spying from the Top of Qomolangma

After 1976, a climbing team made up of British and Nepalese soldiers also scaled Mt. Qomolangma.

Worth a mention, however, is the 12-man US team, whose ascent was a bicentennial tribute to the United States. Led by expedition leader P. Triamble, the team reached Kathmandu on August 3, 1976, and set up base camp in the mid reaches of the Khumbu icefall on September 8. Taking the traditional southeast ridge route, the first group ascended the peak on October 8—



Chris Chandler and Bob Cormack, with the help of two Sherpas.

But the US team had also an objective to set up an apparatus that would measure the extent of China's nuclear weapon development from the top of Mt. Qomolangma. Two other instruments were set up and left at the peak, one to measure

the maximum wind speed and wind force at the top of Mt. Qomolangma, the other to measure its highest and lowest temperatures. The findings showed that in mid-January, Mt. Qomolangma showed the strongest wind force, with wind speeds reaching 92 metres/ second, while the temperature was at a freezing -52°C. This



Chung (front) having a photo with his partners on the summit of Qomolangma (courtesy by Kin-Man Chung)

Kin-Man Chung: Hong Kong's Answer to Mt. Qomolangma Conquerors

Chung Kin Man, who founded the Hong Kong Mountaineering Training Centre, made it to the top of Mt. Qomolangma on May 31 this year to become the second man from Hong Kong to reach the Third Pole, as well as the first to conquer all seven of the world's great summits.

Kin-Man Chung, 49, began to climb great peaks around the world in 1976, and it took him to all seven continents. In 1992, he and his partner had attempted to summit Mt. Qomolangma, but illness led him to give up the bid, while Zhan became Hong Kong's first summiteer of Mt. Qomolangma. This year being the jubilee anniversary of the ascent of Mt. Qomolangma, Kin-Man Chung prepared for another attempt. He arrived in Nepal from Hong Kong in March, then his destination was Base Camp, to the north of Mt. Qomolangma. After more than two months of altitude acclimatization and training, Kin-Man Chung joined a New Zealand team on May 31, as they headed for the pinnacle via the north ridge—the route the 1960 Chinese team used. They reached the top at 7.00 a.m. and that morning saw a Hong Kong S.A.R. flag flying proudly from the peak of the world.

contribution to world science is undeniable, but the US team's secret collection of Chinese nuclear data was mere military espionage.

Climbing Without Oxygen

In February 1978, German alpine physiologist Dr. Karl Herrligkoffer and his American colleague Dr. P. H. Ridgway, came to a daring conclusion based on the following case studies: in 1922 and 1924, British explorers Mallory, Irvine and Howard Somervell could keep climbing at heights above 8,000 metres along the northeast ridge of Mt. Qomolangma, when supplemental oxygen was no longer available; the 1960 Chinese team, whose four members Wang Fuzhou, Gong Bu and Qu Yinhua, Liu Lianman, persisted for over 20 hours without oxygen and food to climb the summit from the second step-8,700 metres above sea level, then safely return to the 8,100 metre high camp; the nine Chinese team members who summited Mt. Qomolangma in 1975 had no supplemental oxygen and carried out experiments on top of Mt. Qomolangma for over 90 minutes, as well as results from low-pressure cabin oxygen-deprivation training. The theory was: "Under normal conditions, a fit person who has received systematic oxygen deprivation training, altitude and cold training, can safely reach any peak on earth

without extra oxygen support.

In the three months that followed this new discovery, alpine explorers Reinhold Messner of Italy and Peter Habeler of Austria underwent extensive low-pressure cabin and oxygen-deprivation training, and did the unimaginable. On May 8, 1978, they journeyed from the west ridge to the Hornbein couloir, summited Mt. Qomolangma and safely returned to base camp totally without oxygen support. This set off a new trend in mountaineering for oxygenless ascents of peaks higher than 8,000 metres.

Climbing Mt. Qomolangma from China

After 1978, China relaxed its controls on alpine areas, attracting overseas teams to climb China's summits over 8,000 metres such as Mt. Qomolangma, K2 (Qogir, 8,611 metres), Lhotse (8,511 metres), Makalu (8,481 metres), Gasherbrum I (8,068 metres), Broad Peak (8,047 metres), Gasherbrum II (8,038 metres). The two decades between 1980 and 1999 were possibly the most active years for overseas expeditions to scale the Tibetan peaks in China.

During this period, expeditions from France, Germany, Japan, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, the US and Russia all summited Mt. Qomolangma from the Chinese side. At the same time, explorers from various



countries keen to outdo one another added to the ascents: winter (December-February), monsoon season (late June-early September), oxygenless ascent, solo ascents, fast ascents alpine skiing, and even paragliding (down the mountain top).

During this time, the Tibetan mountaineering team became a force to be reckoned with in the world of climbing and of invaluable help to the world's mountaineers. Of the 14 mountains above 8,000 metres, the Chinese Tibetan team had already conquered 12 by 2002, a record that few can match. 

Translated by Cheng Lei

1. The east face of Mt. Qomolangma: the indent to the left is the South Col, the centre high section is Mt. Qomolangma, while below are the sheer cliffs of the east face. The bottom is the Kangshung Glacier
2. Heroic leader of the Chinese Tibetan Mountaineering Team Sangzhu has led the team to successfully summit 12 of the world's peaks over 8,000 metres (by Duojie Zhandui)
3. Chinese climbers clean the graves for those who have lost their lives here (by Suolang Luobu)

About the Author

Zhou Zheng, 74, graduated from the Beijing Furen University in 1950, and from the Harbin Foreign Languages Institute in 1953. In 1955 he graduated from the Soviet Union College for Mountaineering Instructors. The same year he created the first record in Chinese mountaineering history by summiting the 6,780 metre high October Peak in the Soviet Union. From October 1955 to October of 1997, Zhou has been a dedicated researcher and professor in alpine mountaineering. His positions include professor at the Sports Science Research Institute under China's Sports Administration, instructor and chief instructor for the national mountaineering team. Having taken part in several alpine exploration and research expeditions, his knowledge and experience of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, his mountaineering experience and skills in strategy and route planning make him an expert in the field.



Homes Away From Home in DALI

Photos & article by Dianna

In the eyes of many visitors, **Dali** ancient city is almost like a **Western town** which is crowded with **exotic bars and cafes**, and many **foreigners of course**. **Traditional** guestrooms and hotels seem out of date here, as individual hostels reflect the **unique styles** of their owners have been built. And **travel buffs** here don't just seek for cheap hostels anymore.

Every room faces to the garden

MCA 100% Holiday Feeling

I had been to Dali in Southwest China's Yunnan Province four years ago, and visited all the scenic spots in and around the city. This time, I had just one goal—to relax and enjoy myself.

With lazy days in mind, a comfortable hotel was a priority. In many tourist handbooks I noticed the introduction to the MCA Hotel, which boasted its sunshine breakfast: a delicious breakfast in the sun by an outdoor swimming pool in summer. Just reading the introduction impressed me, so I went just for the sake of its reputation.

Even in the slack season in mid March, a reservation is essential at the MCA. My arrival coincided with that of a group of young students

from the Guangxi Music Institute to exchange what they had learned with those in Yunnan. The students had occupied all the cheap larger rooms in the hotel, so for the first night, I had to stay in the relatively expensive garden-like suite (actually only 120 yuan one night).

I first checked out the "glass restaurant", a greenhouse-like structure with plenty of sunlight, and then followed a waiter around a swimming pool in the heart of the garden. The weather was still cold, so nobody was swimming, but two foreign guests were lying near the pool, reading and enjoying the sunshine, and a group of dogs was playing around them. Beside the pool were fully occupied houses in the Bai people's style, and a large hall for performances.

I came to my suite for that night. The two-storey building in an ancient style was a combination of Chinese and Western styles. Every room faced the garden, having its own table and chairs outside.



Traditional Chinese music performance



Free Internet and a Free Concert

From a waiter I learned that the hotel often sponsored many artistic performances or shows in the hotel, free of charge, for the benefit of its guests.

At seven in the evening, the pool area was crowded guests and restaurant diners, who stayed especially for the concert. After the concert, I lost no time

Cafe of antique flavour

using the free Internet service in the dining hall. While I was doing so, I heard more pleasant music. It turned out to be the students from the Guangxi Music Institute who were playing their favourite music in the dining hall—guitars, flutes and folk songs. The Tibetan boss of the hotel had joined the students in an impromptu jam session.

A Breakfast Surprise

After a sound sleep, I walked slowly to the dining hall for breakfast. I ordered a No. 2 breakfast—two large roasted pancakes, two pieces of bacon, two eggs, two sausages, all for just eight yuan. I had thought I had made a mistake. After confirmation, however, I greedily ordered a cup of coffee and a large plate of fruit salad as well.

After breakfast, I asked a waiter if there were cheaper rooms. Telling me someone had just checked out, he led me a relatively simple building behind the swimming pool. Wooden boards separated the rooms. Though small, it had all the conveniences, including TV set, a separate bathroom with toilet and a mini bathtub. The price was only 50 yuan for one night. The small delicate windows, the ancient wooden furniture, and the abstract paintings on the wall reminded me of the bedroom of Van Gogh.



8 yuan for a breakfast

The combination of Chinese and Western styles

10 yuan per night only

Dali MCA Hotel

Add: 7000 Wenxian Road, Dali Ancient City
(150 metres to the Southern Entrance)

Tel: (872) 2673666/ 2671999

Facilities: 30 rooms, restaurant, outdoor cafe, gallery, swimming pool, Internet surfing room (lodgers for free), reading room, and some bikes for rent (10 yuan per day), train ticket reservations, etc.

Rates: 10 yuan (one bed in dormitory room, public lavatory); 120 yuan (standard room with garden/swimming pool view).

Transport: Bus No.4 which departs at Xiguang Bus Terminus in Dali. Get off at Wenxian Road Station. 30 minutes. 1.2 yuan.



Four Seasons Tavern A Haven for Backpackers

The story goes that a Taiwanese man fell in love with Dali during his travels. He not only left his heart there, but also rented a primary school in the Ancient City and converted it into a hotel, setting up in the garden 10 Taiwanese teahouses of different styles. This was the Siji (Four Seasons) Tavern, whose name meant "open all seasons".

The Hidden Mysteries of the Tearoom

Two rows of classrooms on the left and the right had become standard hotel rooms. Seats were available outdoors, convenient for lodgers to read, have meals or chat. In the centre of the large yard was a wooden teahouse. Stepping inside, I seemed to be in a labyrinth. Every corner was worth a look. In such a small building there were more than 10 teahouses varying in size and style. Alone or in a group, there was always a suitable place here to sit.

Besides the seats at the entrance, I found countless "secret spaces", some set at the end of the corridor,

Look down from
a height



Playing table tennis



The two-story
teahouse is a
unique feature
of the Tavern



the ideal place
to chat and sit at
leisure



some covered at the corner of
the stairs. All were ideal places
for lodgers to chat and sit at leisure.

Besides the standard rooms on the two sides of the yard, the main
building also contained large rooms for backpackers at 10 yuan a night. A guest could take his
choice. The tavern had a reading room, a dining hall, an Internet room (free to guests), and ticket
reservation services. Guests could enjoy themselves without leaving the premises.

A Meeting Place for Travellers

With many foreign and domestic tourists staying here, it was easy to make friends and
exchange information on which bar was the best, which scenic spot was worthwhile, which
hotels were recommended, and so on. Information gained in this way is more practical and
fresher than tourist brochures.

I stayed in the best standard room (discounted to just 70 yuan in the slack
season), and enjoyed the self-service breakfast of Chinese
and Western food for 10 yuan in the morning. In the daytime,
I strolled around in the ancient city, occasionally returned to
the tavern to rest or to do some washing. In the
evening, I exchanged information with other
tourists, sent some e-mails, and returned to my
room to fall into a sound sleep. Life was definitely
easy.



Teahouses of
different styles

"Secret spaces"
set at the end of
the corridor



Four Seasons Tavern

Add: 55 Boai Road, Dali Ancient City

Tel: (872) 2663925

Fax: (872) 2670382

E-mail: sijikezhancn@hotmail.com

Facilities: Single, standard and dormitory rooms, indoor dining hall, outdoor cafe, teahouses of
different styles, Internet surfing room (lodgers for free), ping-pong ball tables, bikes for
rent (10 yuan per day), special tour, ticket reservations, etc (food and Internet services
are available only before 10:30 p.m.).

Rates: 10 yuan (one bed in dormitory room with public lavatory)~150 yuan (standard room with a
toilet, inclusive of breakfast). The prices can be negotiated in slack seasons.

Transport: Bus No. 2 which departs at Xiaguan Bus Terminus and stops at the entrance of the
Tavern.

Yu'an Garden A Taste of Southern Asia

I had stayed in the Yu'an Garden at my first visit of Dali, when I first had an experience to stay alone with two strange Japanese men in a shared large room, so nervous that I hardly fell asleep the whole night. Also, I gained the experience of sharing a public bathroom with some foreign girls. After the "cultural ablutions" as such, I, previously a shy person, suddenly became a true unrestricted vagabond. So I had a special feeling to the Yu'an Garden.

Passing through the familiar Foreigners' Street, I followed the familiar path into the old haunt. The layout of the Yu'an Garden remained the same — laid out around a blossoming garden, a flowing rock pool, a cooling pavilion, a dining hall offering South Asian cuisine, the public bathroom, and an outdoor washing place. The garden was trimmed and tidy, complete elegance, perfect for the tourists who had come to enjoy natural and quiet surroundings. And I, an uninvited guest who came to cherish my past, seemed quite unfit here. So I had no other choice to get away quietly.

Yu'an Garden Hostel

Add: 4 Huguo Road, Dali Ancient City

Tel: (872) 2672093

E-mail: yuanguarden@hotmail.com

Facilities: Single, standard and dormitory rooms, dining hall with garden view, courtyard, Internet surfing room (lodgers for free), bikes for rent (10 yuan per day), special tours, etc.

Rates: 15 yuan (one bed in a dormitory room, with a public lavatory)~120 yuan (standard room with a toilet)

Transport: At the end of the Foreigners' Street, close to the National Highway No. 214.



Bamboo fence restaurant



Peaceful
time in
courtyard



Restaurant with garden scenery

And More Choices...

Dali Youth Hostel

Add: 181 Boai Road, Dali Ancient City

Tel/ Fax: (872) 2662418

Facilities: Single, twin-bed rooms (with toilet), three-bed, four-bed and ten-bed rooms, Internet surfing room, bar, restaurant (breakfast for 5 yuan, supper for 10 yuan), self-help laundry room and kitchen, TV room, table tennis room, ticket service centre, bikes for rent (10 yuan per day), characteristic tourist activities and so on.

Rates: 15~50 yuan/ person/ day

Transport: Bus No. 4 or 8 stops at the gate of the hostel.

Comments: On the very opposite is just the Dali Long-distance Bus Station, where visitors can take buses to Lijiang, Shangri-La and some other destinations.

Golden Flower Grand Hotel

Add: 306 Fuxing Road, Dali Ancient City

Tel: (872) 2673343

Fax: (872) 2670573

Facilities: With modern hotel standards.

Rates: Standard room~180 yuan (weekdays); 120 yuan (slack season).

Transport: At the entrance of the Foreigners' Street, a few steps after getting off a bus at the Ancient City.

Comments: One will feel as if he is staying at a three-star hotel with its facilities and services. The hotel is at the downtown of the Ancient City, and the transport is very convenient.

Dali Gucheng Sanyou Tavern

Add: 1 Wenxian Road, Dali Ancient City (at the southern entrance of Ancient City)

Tel: (872) 2662888

Fax: (872) 2662908

Facilities: Standard and dormitory rooms, teahouse, Internet surfing room (lodgers for free), self-help laundry room, bikes renting, tourist services, etc.

Rates: 8 yuan (one bed in a dormitory room, with a public lavatory); 40 yuan (one bed in a double room, with a toilet)

Comments: With completely new decoration, good services and reasonable prices.

Tang Dynasty Tavern

Add: 87 Huguo Road, Dali Ancient City (in the Foreigners' Street)

Tel: (872) 2661580

Facilities: Standard rooms (with toilet), backpackers' club, cafe, Internet surfing room (lodgers for free) and so on.

Rates: 60 yuan/ person/ day (preferential price in slack seasons)

Transport: Within a walk's reach in the Foreigners' Street after getting off a bus in the Ancient City.

Comments: With proper location, suitable prices and new fitment. Its yard takes a unique pattern. Only that the hotel as a whole feels a little bit narrow in space.

Korean Hotel

Add: 115 Huguo Road, Dali Ancient City

Tel: (872) 2665083

Facilities: Four-bed rooms, twin-bed rooms and Korean dining hall (including an Internet surfing room, guests at meals for free), self-help laundry room, etc.

Rates: 15 yuan one person (a four-bed room), 40 yuan one person (a twin-bed room without toilet), 120 yuan one room (a double room with toilet, and discountable in slack seasons)

Transport: Within a walk's reach in the Foreigners' Street after getting off a bus in the Ancient City.

Comments: With a proper location, professional services, reasonable prices and clean rooms. Many backpackers from Korea stay in this hotel. And the restaurant nearby offers tasteful food of a Korean style. The prices for the food are a bit higher, but it is worth it.



Tibetan Cafe



Mandarin Books



Lazy Ones Book Restaurant



Korean Food



Foreign Tastes in Guangzhou

Photos & article by Kit Che

After the SARS outbreak, we have all learnt that when dining out, a clean and tidy environment is just as important as affordable prices. Some Western restaurants in Guangzhou, for example, have been well received by customers thanks to their authentic dishes, and reasonable prices, and an elegant and clean environment.



Japan Fushion

The Largest Japanese Restaurant in Asia



For most Chinese-speaking diners, the first interesting thing of this restaurant is but its Chinese name — 中森名菜 — which has been named after popular Japanese singer Akina Nakamori (中森明菜). Both names are pronounced as “Zhong Sen Ming Cai” in Mandarin, while “名菜” actually means “famous dishes”. Opened in February 2003, the restaurant is claimed to be the largest Japanese restaurant in Asia. With an area of over 7,000 square metres, it includes over 70 independent halls and rooms, surrounded by bamboo groves. With green bamboo, black flagstone paths, and running water, the restaurant was like a huge Japanese-style indoor garden, making a beautiful setting.



It was noon. The hall was full of white-collar workers. It looked like the restaurant was their favourite place for lunch. Opening the menu, I was struck by the choice, with different types of sushi, sashimi, hand-pulled noodles, rice, fried and cooked snacks, among others. The prices are almost the same as Japanese restaurants in Hong Kong, but the environment and atmosphere are much better. My meal arrived quickly, the mouthwatering dishes making an impressive display of bright colours and beautiful shapes. The "Steamed Seafood in a Japanese Pumpkin" was especially delicious. The steaming of the pumpkin stuffed with seafood and curry brought out the delicate aromas. It was a wonderful creation.

After my meal, I paid a visit to the restroom. I was surprised to find that the restroom was as clean as those in five-star hotels; and the glass hand-washing basins were uniquely designed. If a restaurant pays great attention to the restrooms, you should not doubt their sincerity to customers.

1. Steamed Seafood in a Japanese Pumpkin, 68 yuan
2. It is said that Japan Fusion, with an area of over 7,000 square metres, is the largest Japanese restaurant in Asia
3. Fresh salmon sashimi, 68 yuan
4. The waterfall, bamboo grove and black flagstone path at the entrance of the restaurant. This Japanese design is natural, simple and unadorned
5. Girls in Japanese kimono welcome customers by the entrance

✂ 378 Tianhe Road North (at the intersection with Tiya Road East), Guangzhou
 ☎ (20) 3880 8118, 3881 7292
 ⌚ 11:00-14:00, 17:00-23:00
 💰 Cash or credit card
 🚶 Take the subway to No. 1 line and get off at the Sports Centre Station. Then walk about 10-15 minutes, or go to the restaurant by taxi.



Latina Roast Meat from Brazil

Carlos, the Brazilian manager of the Latina (The Latin Music and Restaurant), told me that Guangzhou was not his first stop in China. He had previously operated a restaurant in Shanghai, where he found the Chinese people love Brazilian-style roast meat. So he expanded his business to Guangzhou.

With many Brazilian flags hanging on the walls, the restaurant mainly serves Brazilian-style roast meat, which originates from the vast Rio Grande Do Sul Grassland at the southernmost tip of Brazil, and was created by the local Gauchos people. It does not need any seasonings to prepare, except for some salt to be spread on the meat. Roasting brings out the juices and the aroma is extremely tempting.

The Latin Restaurant mainly serves roast beef, in addition to roast mutton, chicken, pork, sausages, apples, bananas and corn. It seems all foods can be roasted. The chefs dressed like cowboys kept walking between tables, holding skewers of hot meat that had just been roasted. If customers beckoned them, they would bring more meat. The restaurant is always buzzing with people.

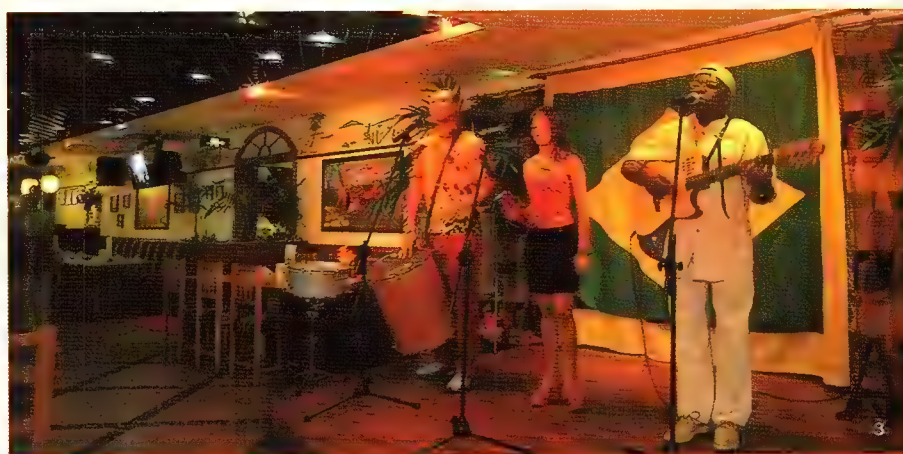
In the evening the restaurant has a livelier atmosphere. A band from Brazil plays music for customers. Amid the sound of singing and drums, it is hard to tell whether it is China or in South America.



1. Brazilian chef holding skewers of roasted meat serves customers
2. The Latin Restaurant provides roast meat, as well as Chinese and Western buffets
3. A Brazilian band brings the atmosphere of South America



✂ 172 Dongfeng Road (near the Tianhe Sports Centre), Guangzhou
 ☎ (20) 3881 9118
 ⌚ 11:00-14:00, 17:00-23:00
 💰 Cash or credit card
 🚶 Take the subway to No. 1 line and get off at the Sports Centre Station. Then walk about 10-15 minutes, or go to the restaurant by taxi.





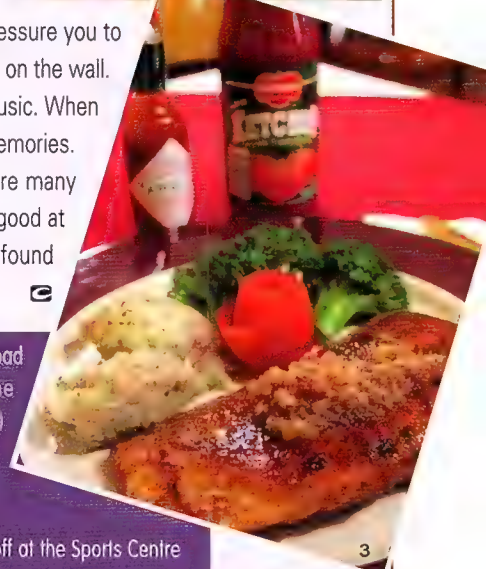
Milano's European Style on the Streets of Guangzhou

It was a complete surprise to find a small Italian restaurant on a small quiet street flanked by residential buildings in Guangzhou.

The Italian restaurant is not large, with only a few tables. It is like a well arranged sitting hall rather than a restaurant. The light-yellow walls, red tablecloths, snow-white napkins, and shining knives and forks indicated that its owner was scrupulous about every detail. I was told this restaurant had two bosses: one Italian and one Guangzhou local. They set up the restaurant together to share their love of Italian food with Chinese people.

In this restaurant, no one introduces high-priced dishes, which you don't want, nor do they pressure you to finish quickly and leave the restaurant as soon as possible. You can choose from the revolving menu on the wall. You can order just a cup of strong coffee, and read the newspaper while listening to the foreign music. When you leave, the waiter will wish you a cordial good-bye. It is the kind of place you leave with fond memories.

Mr. Zhong, the main chef, has specialized in Western food for 10 years. He is able to prepare many dishes, including the appetisers, main dishes, cold dishes, snacks, and desserts. He is especially good at "Fried Fragrant Salmon", and "Colourful Salad". After having drunk and eaten to capacity, I still found room for the snow-white Tiramisu, and began thinking, "Why can't I run a restaurant like this?"



1. The small restaurant has a unique Mediterranean appeal
2. Colourful Salad, made of celery, cherry tomatoes, lettuce, green peppers, olives, cheese, coriander, is a delicious appetizer. Price: 32 yuan
3. Fried Fragrant Salmon with Walnut Juice is delicious and a must. Price: 75 yuan
4. Snow-white Tiramisu made of white cheese, cookies and wine. Price: 28 yuan

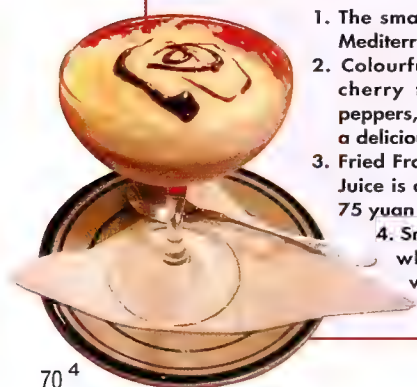
✳ 3-103 Xincheng North Street, Tianhe Road East, Guangzhou (across from the Nangang Seafood City at the intersection)

☎ (20) 3881 0594

🕒 11:00~24:00

💰 Cash or Credit Card

🚇 Take the subway to the No.1 line, get off at the Sports Centre Station, and go to the restaurant by taxi





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For most tourists to Lijiang in Yunnan Province, a concert of Naxi Ancient Music is a must, in addition to their itineraries of visiting the old town area and climbing the snow-capped mountains. Most people know very little about this ancient musical style. One of the chief attractions at the performances is the interesting talk show by Xuan Ke, introducing the Naxi music.

Xuan Ke

A Man with an Evergreen Heart

Photos & article by Dianna Lau



Four years ago, while I going to Lijiang for an interview, I met Xuan Ke, the “compere”, on the flight. Learning that I was a reporter, he offered me an exquisitely designed pamphlet on Naxi music, which was also a ticket to the concert. And, obviously raising his voice, he said, “I love to be interviewed. Come to see me whenever it’s convenient.” I regretted not having the time to do so during that trip. But this spring I returned to Lijiang.

Naxi Ancient Music: A New Look

At 7:30 p.m., I arrived at Dayan Naxi Ancient Music Hall. When I told the attendant that I was a reporter and would like to interview Xuan Ke, she replied politely, “Sorry, reporters have to buy their tickets too. But we’ll see you have a good seat.”

I could only do as I was told. The episode reminded me of what Xuan Ke had said four years ago: “When a state head wants to listen to Naxi Ancient Music, he or she has to come to Lijiang and sit on a bench as the rest of the audience does. Our Naxi Ancient Music deserves respect.”

In the hall, I found metal seats had replaced the old wooden benches. That was why the price had risen. Four years ago, a ticket cost 10 yuan; now the price ranged from 50 to 100 yuan. However, more than half the seats were occupied — despite the low tourist season — a sign of the public appreciation of the music.

Xuan Ke has devoted himself to the popularization of Naxi Ancient Music since 1986. Without speaking in music terms, he introduces this music to common people through humour and interesting expressions. In this way, he has brought new life to the ancient art form, making it known in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and the far away lands of Holland, Britain and the United States. While giving performances across the world, the band draws travellers, musicians, media people and even statesmen to Lijiang. It is estimated that over a million people have learned about Naxi Ancient Music through live performances, TV programmes, CDs or other media.



A Modern Performance

The concert started at 8 p.m.

“Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.” Xuan Ke appeared on the stage and announced the beginning of the performance, wearing a traditional Chinese gown over his blue jeans and leather shoes. Xuan Ke owes his fluent English and talent in music to his family background. His father was a missionary who could speak seven languages; his mother was a Tibetan singer; and when he was a small child, he had a German nanny.

On the stage, the band was ready. Some of the musicians were white-bearded old men, who looked very much like the immortals appearing in fairy stories, and young ladies wearing traditional Naxi costumes. The band used traditional Chinese instruments, which, together with the men’s gowns, reminded me of the cultural relics displayed in museums. Now I understood why their performances were called “living fossils of music”.

1. Xuan Ke is at the heart of the performance, entertaining the audience with lively talk
2. A Naxi Ancient Music show is staged in Lijiang every night, and most of the musicians are men over 50 (by Leng Bo)
3. Many packed tours visit the Naxi Concert Hall during the day
4. The cost of admission is rising along with the fame of Naxi Ancient Music. It was 10 yuan four years ago, but 50 yuan today





Following Xuan Ke's brief introduction came "The Eight Diagrams". The drums, "erhu" (a two-

stringed bowed instrument), "pipa" (four-stringed Chinese lute) and copper bells joined to play out an ancient rhythm. At the beginning, the audience was very excited and many people had their photographs taken. However, after their curiosity was satisfied, the obscure music seemed to have a tranquillizing effect, calming the audience. Some people kept clicking their cameras to pass the time; others had entered their own dreamland. Several foreigners, however, remained devoted, though it was hard to tell if they really enjoyed the music.

Starting with Laughter

Luckily, there was Xuan Ke who played the role of a cultural bridge. At the end of each item, he gave a cross-talk, and, magically, it always drew the audience back from their dreams. One of his talks went: "A few days ago, Premier Zhu came to the Naxi Ancient Music concert. After the performance, he ordered me seriously, 'Xuan Ke, you must live to be 100 years old.' 'Oh, of course, sir.'" I replied.

Some times, Xuan Ke automatically drew the spotlight to himself while talking sarcastically about some of those famous but "foolish" or "heartless" actors or actresses. "Please notice that you're enjoying a rare type of music that may probably die out," he began. "These old musicians on stage are all state-level treasures. Please recognize the high quality of your 'commodity'. Now times have changed. These intelligent artists are not respected, but impostors can get their way in entertainment circles only because they have a pair of extraordinarily big eyes, beautiful face or so. Some young people care for nothing but making money, forgetting study. There is a promising singer, when the cultural authorities invited her to visit her hometown to help promote the local musical culture, she asked for 100,000 yuan through her agent. Disgusting! Ok, let's forget it!" Xuan Ke got in: "CDs of our Naxi Ancient Music are sold in this hall. Be aware that those sold elsewhere are all fake."

Then, with a serious expression, Xuan Ke pointed at the photos of dead musicians hanging on the wall. "Treasured players of the ancient music die every year..."

Before he finished, someone in the audience laughed, thinking he was again making fun. But Xuan Ke continued, "Several of the players on stage are in their 80s. Another planned to join the performance, but we dare not let him come since he has sight problems. We have to protect his life. If we have no concern, the Naxi Ancient Music will soon vanish."

An Intelligent Man

There is no doubt that Xuan Ke is a smart speaker. He knows well how to start a story and how to end it, often making fun of himself. "In 1958, when I was 28 years old, I was put in custody for no reason," he began telling his own story. "Thereafter, I spent 21 years in prison. The second day I was imprisoned, they hung me up and beat me mercilessly. At that moment, I realized that I had to accept the fate awaiting me, and it would be useless to fight it. I had a strong ability to adapt to my new living conditions."

Xuan Ke does not mind talking about his health. "I developed some heart problems recently and stayed in Kunming for a month," he said. "I have to go back to the hospital to see the doctor again tomorrow. There is no choice. But I am too vigorous and my heart is



About Xuan Ke

Xuan Ke was born in 1930 into a well-to-do family. Most of his ancestors were Han people, but his great grandmother was a Naxi, and his grandmother was from a Tibetan noble family. His father was a missionary and his mother was a Tibetan singer. Growing up in such a family, he was brought up with English and music. He attended a middle school in Kunming with the support of his elder sister and her husband. With no day-to-day worries in his life, Xuan Ke concentrated all his attention on music.

However, at the age of 28 (1958), his nightmare started. He was detained in a bank in Kunming when he was withdrawing money that his brother-in-law had sent to him from Hong Kong. It turned out that the Hong Kong bank his brother-in-law used also provided funds to many Kuomintang spies hidden on the Mainland. Charged with a "crime", Xuan Ke was put into a prison in a mine in the remote mountains of Honghe Prefecture. His long imprisonment did not end until 1978.

Xuan Ke was 48 when he regained his freedom. He went back to his hometown Lijiang and became a middle school teacher. Later, he devoted himself to the study of musical ethnology. For years, he travelled across the Lijiang area to collect folklore and published many controversial essays. He successfully wrote lyrics for three Tang Dynasty music pieces, which have become the masterpieces of today's Naxi Ancient Music show. Together with a dozen or so elderly men, he organized the Dayan Naxi Ancient Music Society, acting as a member first and then as President.

With the efforts of Xuan Ke, the Naxi Ancient Music began to entertain tourists in 1986 and has since attracted a worldwide following.



beating strongly." Another fact he always boasts is: "I'm 73, and my daughter is 13". Perhaps, when people call him "a man who succeeds late", they refer not only to his career in music but also to his family.

For the whole evening, Xuan Ke gave his speech in both Chinese and English. He introduced the Naxi Ancient Music to the audience and made the performance of an hour or so satisfactory.

After the show ended, many people lined up to buy CDs and books. With their new purchases, they crowded around Xuan Ke, asking for his signature. Some asked to have a picture taken with him, others tried to seize a minute to talk to him.

Imprisonment and Travel

Very often, Xuan Ke's exaggerating and bold talk is taken as showing off. In fact, his extemporaneous jokes are creative but not vulgar, and some of them even reflect an ethic philosophy. He once depicted his imprisonment as "a long journey". This, of course, was not a joke, but the reflection of his deep understanding of life.

— "Ninety percent of people in the world travel through their bodies, and only very few know how to travel with their spirit — the latter is much more important."

— "In those years, your body was imprisoned, but your mind had to

be remolded. I always believed it was impossible to imprison my mind. Even when I was locked in a cell, my mind could fly to the City Hall of Hong Kong, or to outer space. Nobody could ever block it. Only when one knows how to do mind travel can one claim himself a free man."

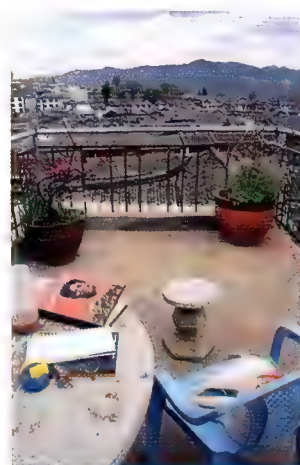
— "In the first seven months, I was locked in a very small cell. It was dark all day, with light coming through three tiny holes on the iron door. And these holes served as my only channel of optical contact with the outside world. So, I found that when you see in darkness, even a tiny hole could make you see everything clearer and in better focus. Your mind could become clearer, too."

Translated by Gloria Shang

1. Queuing up — in honour of Xuan Ke
2. People linger in the concert hall after the show, asking Xuan Ke to sign CDs or books, or taking photographs with him
3. Xuan Ke in his study-room telling his stories
4. The Xuan Ke Villa facing the Yulong Snow Mountain forms a striking contrast to the dark prison cell he once lived in

Notes

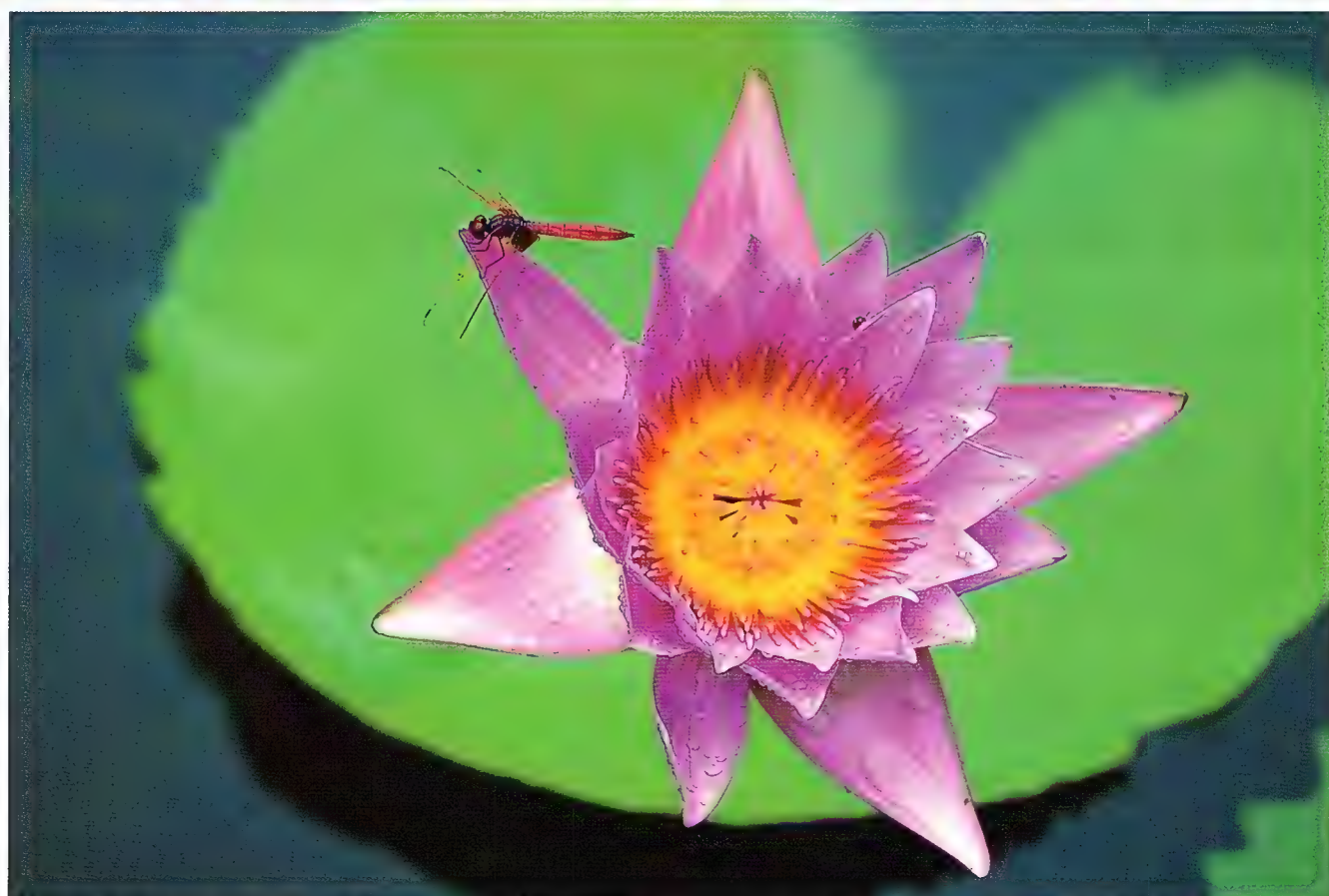
Before I had my interview with Xuan Ke, I spent a whole afternoon on the balcony of my hotel room, reading about this man.



His life, full of thrilling episodes, fantastic stories, romances and tragedies, is very much like a serial novel or TV drama. A noted English writer encouraged Xuan Ke to write an autobiography. At first, Xuan Ke wanted to name the book "1,000 Stories of Xuan Ke", but the writer suggested he change the number to 1,001, indicating the continuous happenings, and Xuan accepted the idea immediately.

Photographing Flowers, Insects and Birds

Photos & article by Chan Yat Nin



Water lily shot from a plan view. The lily is a perfect shape, its purple blossom forming a strong contrast with the green leaves. The dark red dragonfly adds liveliness to the picture. 70~200 mm/ F2.8 lens plus a 2x telephoto lens; 50° slide; shutter: 1/60 second; aperture: 5.6

In traditional Chinese painting, there is a particular category for pictures of flowers and birds. Many Chinese photographers love to create works on flowers, birds and insects too. Compared with photos of famous mountains and rivers, as well as characteristic customs and lifestyles, these works are far less imposing and inspiring. But, when viewed from a different angle, you'll find they have a unique beauty.

Don't believe that you can take a fine photo of flowers, insects or birds by snapping away. It is very difficult to get a good shot. First, you must have good judgment and necessary skills; then, as with shooting mountains and rivers, you have to travel laboriously and endure working under the scorching sun or in a heavy rain.



This is not a cicada, but its slough. The backlighting exposes the patterns of the cicada slough clearly. Twenty years ago, when I could not afford a close-up lens, I always used my 135 mm/ F2.8 lens with added 2x telephoto lens.

64°C slide; shutter: 1/250 second; aperture: 5.6

Photographing Equipment

To take photos of flowers, grasses, birds and insects, you mainly need to shoot at the minimum distance, so you must have special photographic equipment.

Camera

To take minimum-distance photos, you need a single-lens reflecting camera to observe your subjects. If you use a paraxial-view camera, it will be hard to calculate your picture and decide the depth of field because of the parallax of short-distance focusing. Either a 135 or 120 camera is good, but the former provides more flexibility. There are many kinds of lens to choose from.

Lenses

Doubtlessly, lenses with a close-up function are the most suitable. For 135 cameras, there are such lenses as 50 mm, 90 mm (or 100 mm) and 200 mm (or 180 mm), which can photograph objects as small as 24 x 36 mm in size. The shorter the lens (as that of a 50 mm), the lighter

and handier it is. While shooting objects that are difficult to approach, you have to use a zoom, or even a "cannon" of 300 mm.

The maximum ratio between the image and the real object allowed by a close-up lens is 1:1, or 1:2, but lenses of this kind are usually expensive. Your zoom with a close-up function of 1:4 will be good enough. You can make up the ratio difference in two ways.

Method one: You can add an additional lens to your zoom, which may draw your object much closer. Of course, the photographic quality cannot match that of a specially prepared close-up lens.

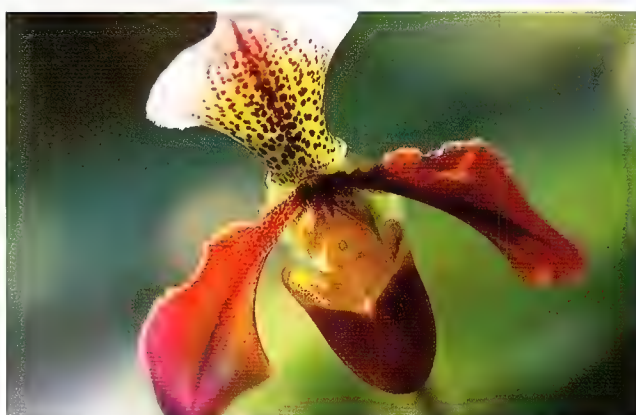
Method two: You may add a close-up ring between the body and lens of your camera. With this additional link, you will lose light by one or two degrees, so remember to readjust the aperture. This may possibly make the picture more difficult.

Tripod

A solid tripod is very useful. When you try to approach the object as close as possible, you must stop your camera from vibrating, or the picture will be blurred. Vibration can even make the object out of focus, as often happens in close-up shots. When the camera is stabilized on a tripod, you'll be worry-free, and can thus take your time in choosing a smaller aperture and slower shutter speed to obtain a deeper field.

Other Supplements

In case the light is insufficient, you can use a reflection board. When the background is poor, use backdrop paper. If you want to get photos of fresh and water-dripping flowers or plants, you should bring a water sprayer. Even better is an eye-drop bottle, with which you can add dewdrops. Some photographers are even more creative. They bring an icebox with them to keep the insects they catch. When they need a beetle or fly to decorate their photo, the frozen insects are completely tamed. In addition, you can also take some clippers and fine ropes or string with you, in case you need to tie up the plants to compose a better picture, or to fasten them to keep them from swaying in wind.



A lady's slipper (Paphiopedilum Purpuratum) at a flower fair. A subtle ray of sunshine penetrates the exhibition hall, further highlighting the beauty of the blooming plant.

90mm close-up lens; 50° slide, developed as 100 film; shutter: 1/30 second; aperture: 2.8

Composition, Depth of Field and Lighting

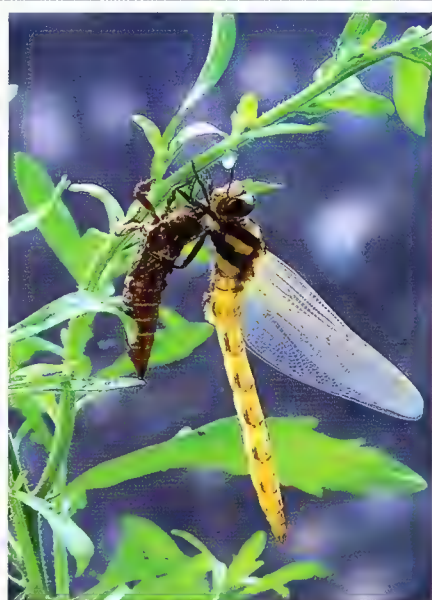
Usually, as soon as people see beautiful plants, they begin clicking the shutter of their camera immediately. But very often, when they look at their photos, they regret not having taken in the charm as they had expected. These people don't know that photography is an art of subtraction, and the "small matter" photography needs more careful subtraction.

To subtract means to omit, through your viewfinder, the extra parts in the scene, leaving only the subjects. Meanwhile, you should choose your position and angle to avoid the clutter and let the subject stand out.

The basic method to let your subject stand out is to control the field depth. We all know that when we choose a larger aperture, we get a shallower field depth; and, when we move closer to the object, our field will be shallower too. When we do things the other way, the field depth increases. While photographing plants or insects, the field is always shallow, making it easy to distinguish the subject from its backdrop. However, sometimes, the plants may be mixed up and you have to choose the right spot on which to focus. As a matter of fact, it is not a good photo if everything in it, in the front and in the back, is equally clear. Only when a photo contains both solid and virtual images, can it best reflect the subject.

Smart lighting is also very important. Even a thrillingly beautiful

flower may look ordinary in front lighting. Petals, leaves and grasses, which are thin, can



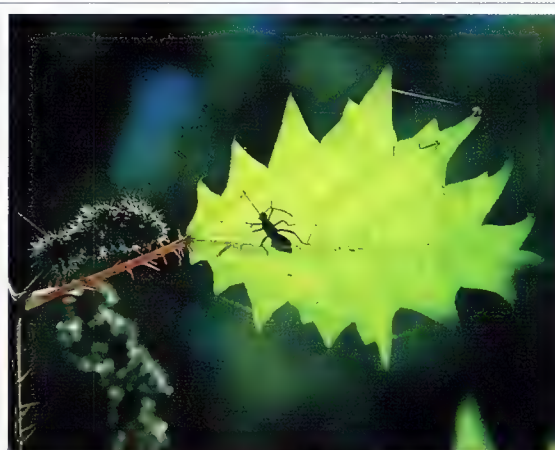
This is one of the photos reflecting a dragonfly taking off its shell, which I shot with a 28~300 mm/ F3.5~5.6 zoom lens. The whole process took more than an hour. Using such a zoom, you can take photos of 1:3.3 at a close-up distance of 135 mm. 100° slide; shutter: 1/60 second; aperture: 8



The blossom in this photo is actually tiny, and the spider is even smaller than an ant, but they are both distinctive, thanks to the greenness surrounding them. The photo has a striking contrast of colours, sizes and virtual and clear images, which makes it unique. 55 mm standard lens with an additional close-up connecting ring, 1:1 ratio; 64° slide; shutter: 1/30 second; aperture: 4

display their subtle charm in backlighting. So, you should try hard to find an angle for backlighting or side-lighting. The picture will look even fresher if the plants are sprayed with water.

Nonetheless, not all pretty flowers are suitable for photographing. Some, with striking colours of red, yellow or purple and thick petals, lack layers in colour and often make boring photos. While taking pictures of these kinds of flowers, you should use a special strategy — adding a few water drops or insects, for example — to give them extra life.



An interesting composition: a shadow of a small insect on a backlit green leaf of backlighting. 50 mm close-up lens; 50°C slide; shutter: 1/125 second; aperture: 4

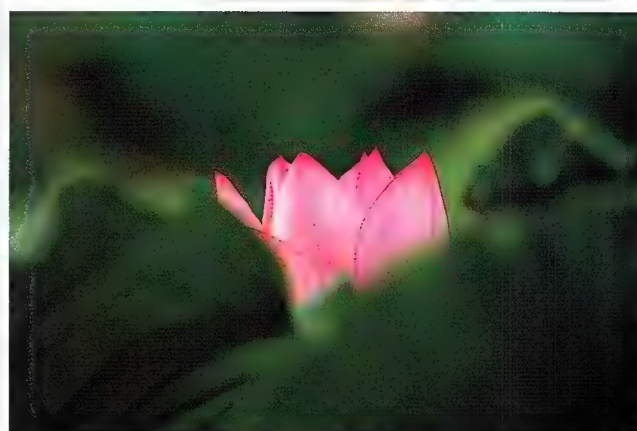
Insects and Birds: Adding Beauty to Plants

However beautiful a flower is, if it lacks a creature companion, its artistic attraction would not be completely exposed. When you have the right living thing to decorate the plant, or even make it the centre of the picture, your photo will immediately become lively. Small birds and insects make flowers and plants more attractive; meanwhile, the latter also serve as the background of the former. Together, they form an interesting picture.

It is not easy to get such perfect pictures. First of all, as living things, insects and birds keep moving and don't wait for you to focus, so you have to wait for a long time at the site. Luckily, insects such as butterflies, bees, dragonflies and beetles are easy to find. So, as long as you are patient, you will encounter the flower-chasers. But note: if you use slow shutter speed to shoot a bee with vibrating wings, you will probably get a bee without wings. You



The red lychees and green grasshopper offer you an amazing contrast, and the crystal clear water drops add more charm. 90 mm close-up lens; 50° slide; shutter: 1/125 second; aperture: 4. The Fujichrome RVP film is particularly sensitive to the colours of red and green, making the work even more colourful.



Lotus flowers are thrillingly beautiful, making it even more difficult to work out a perfect photo of them. In this picture, the photographer blurred the leaves, leaving only the flowers on focus. The dark leaves and bright blossoms also form a striking contrast. 300 mm/ F4 zoom plus a 2x telephoto lens; 100° slide, developed as 200; shutter: 1/250 second; aperture: 8

have to use a shutter of 1/200 second or faster in order to take in its moving wings.

The shutter problem is equally important for taking photos of birds with flowers. Needless to say the speed of a bird's flapping wings, even its head that turns around continuously requires a shutter of 1/200 second or higher for a clear picture.

As mentioned above, it will be much easier if you have taken some insects ahead of schedule and had them frozen. In this case, they will be well under control.

Professional photographers use the control-method to take photos of birds too. They hang a mosquito net in the room and fix branches for the birds to stand on. When the birds are released into the net and stand on the branches, the photographer stretches his lens into the net from the hole that he has prepared. He will not miss his shots, of course, but the background is too empty to create lively pictures.

Translated by Gloria Shang



When silk cotton trees are in full blossom in spring, their flowers attract numerous birds, offering photographers a golden opportunity to take pictures of flowers and birds. 300 mm/ F4 zoom plus a 2x telephoto lens; 100° slide, developed as 200; shutter: 1/250; aperture: 8



Young Love & Old Customs

Photos & article by Medhi Chebil Link

Where can you find the world's oldest lovers festival? Don't look for it in romantic European cities such as Paris or Venice. The Miao people of Guizhou Province will tell you that the oldest valentine-like celebration is the Sisters' Rice Festival. Held from the 15th~17th of the third lunar month (May 3~5, 2003), around the village of Shidong, the festivities are a great opportunity to see the Miao people in their best costumes and a lively illustration of their traditions.

Celebrating on the World Stage

To make sure I would not miss the event, I arrived in advance, taking a train and a bus to reach Taijiang, a small town 230 km east of Guiyang, capital city of Guizhou. The festival hadn't officially started, but the streets already had a party atmosphere,

with so many people out that one would have believed it was a holiday. About 20 Miao women were walking down the streets. This was truly a visual feast, a festival of contrasting colours. Their blue, red, and black blouses were all covered with fine embroideries. The young women were wearing huge necklaces and their stunning silver headdresses were shining in the afternoon sun. As they moved, their silver decorations were clinking together, making a noisy advance noticed by everyone. The Taijiang outdoor theatre became the host of a fashion show whose models were local

Miao villagers. Ethnic music accompanied the show and the villagers were walking exactly like models, coming and going on an elevated stage surrounded by photographers. To an outsider, it was simply amazing to watch this meeting of faraway cultures in this rural town, and the audience was wildly enthusiastic.





A Big Day in a Small Village

The party kept going until late, but I decided to get some rest so I could wake up early for the start of the real festival, in tiny Lan Tun Village. No entrance fees though, but a compulsory toast of rice wine, a powerful spirit. Every outsider willing to enter the village-Chinese, Miao from other villages, foreigners-had to drink, an expression of warm welcome in the Miao culture. The village of Lan Tun itself had a much more isolated feeling than the town of Taijiang. A peaceful scene of the Chinese countryside.

But on the festival day, the beating of drums disturbed the usual quiet of Lan Tun. Each group of Miao women arriving from other villages was setting up its own drums and dance circle. Meanwhile, Miao men were busy racing from house to house in order to collect as much rice as they could for the women. The Sisters' meal rice is cooked until it has a sticky consistency, and then coloured to represent either the Miao people or the four seasons. Collecting the rice is above all another opportunity to drink a toast of rice wine in every house visited, and to prolong the ambience of the festival. Later in the afternoon, the river nearby provided the background for an interesting singing competition between Miao people. Two rows



of women were engaging in a powerful antiphonal singing, launching a long high-pitched cry that would leave one breathless. After the competition, people kept singing folk songs and dancing until the evening dinner, when everyone decided to catch up with family and friends, thus marking the end of the festival's first day.

The Dragon Boat Festival

The celebrations of the second day were held in small riverside communities around the village of Shidong. The highlight was certainly the brilliant display of the famous Dragon Boats in a short race between two villages lying across the Qingsui River. In spite of their unusual design, about 20 metres long by only one metre wide, the Dragon Boat can carry up to 40 people. However, the very front section of the boat was never crowded. This is where a respected elder of the village sits, directing the drumming rhythm to pace the rowers. In front of him, a young girl dressed in traditional Miao clothes holds cymbals, whose metallic sound answers the drumming in a solemn melody.

After the race, the Dragon Boats kept going downstream to another village a few kilometres away. This was where the largest gathering of the festival was held, on the afternoon of the second day. The small village of Pianzhai became the focus of the whole region for a few hours and large numbers of Miao women equipped with their finest headdresses could be seen arriving in longboats over the Qingsui River. Most were dancing in a circle. In the end, hundreds of people were taking part in the dance! The clothes might vary from village to village, but

the dancing was always similar, with the same repetitive move where everyone spins while the dance circle keeps on turning. Closer to the river shore, elder women were exhibiting their fine embroidery works.

We felt lucky when a Miao family invited us to join their feast in Shidong. We found out that Sisters' Rice is also one of the best meals of the year for the villagers, with dozens of dishes served simultaneously including fish, pork, chicken and beef. But only one drink is available, always rice wine!

While feasting, the house doors are kept open and passers-by are invited to come in and toast with the host family. Old love songs are sung in the Miao language, and the celebrations keep going until late in the evening. This part of the festival is definitely the most spontaneous and gave us the impression of an open people, keen to share their best moments with any stranger. 

1. Two young Miao people sing together, reminding the original purpose of the Sisters' Rice Festival was to find a soul mate
2. Taijiang people learn about tropical dancing from an ethnic dancer during the opening ceremony
3. Colourful sticky rice is specially cooked during the Sisters' Rice Festival
4. A dragon boat is displayed on the Qingsui River, not far from the village of Shidong
5. The huge headdress of this Miao woman doesn't prevent her eating in the Taijiang market



Getting a Shine Out of Shekou

Photos & article by Tony Henderson



It is less than an hour by high-powered catamaran from Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal to Shekou, lying just before Shenwan (Deep Bay). This is at the western end of Shenzhen, another special economic zone of China, bordering Hong Kong, in Guangdong Province.

We picked Shekou just for a change and to get away for the weekend. The voyage was over the smooth inland waters of the Pearl River as it coursed along on the mainland side of Lantau Island channel, under the Ma Wan Bridge. To reach Shekou we would hug the coast, whereas, the Macao and Zhuhai ferries would trip right across the mouth of the Pearl River as it emptied its silted waters into the South China Sea.

It was not very long though before we arrived at a small wayside called Long Dian, its tables bereft of customers as it was 3 p.m. and an in-between eating time, but with good style the chap in charge was proffering fresh fish from the local market, bitter melon and lightly battered squid. The fish was prepared using a lot of chillies in a huge cauldron and was Sichuan spicy hot. This caused us to raid the fridge

for bottles of cooling ale and the locally brewed Kingway — pronounced Qingway — proved a necessary countermeasure. Favourite was the green label variety, unavailable in urban areas in Hong Kong.

There was a television in the corner playing a VCD of Chinese classics, the air was cool, the street busy and as strangers, we attracted quite a bit of curiosity. The cook kept popping out and back into the kitchen like a cuckoo clock, making sure all was well. Our thumbs up sign sufficed to allay any concerns he had about how we liked the result of his pan clatter. ***Food in China is like beer in England, there is no bad beer, but some beers are better than others!***

It was surprising to note that the avenues were lined with mango trees—the first time we had seen that. A common tree is the Chinese banyan with its aerial roots. Trees make these towns all the better, providing welcome shade on hot sunny days. It was fun imagining the scene when these trees held ripened fruit. Who would be first to claim it?

It was a late afternoon of pool and darts as the bar was more like an English pub with its clientele of engineers and middle-management staff from foreign enterprises. The mood was most friendly and everyone seemed to know each other.

The area had many bars with amazing names that were taken from famous people, films and places, and some replicating well known international drinking places. Bottoms Up has its Hong Kong counterpart, Casablanca is the well known movie, Cheers is from US television, Red Rooster is the 1960s Rolling Stones hit and the Lost



Angel Music Bar speaks for itself.

We did a tour guided by our local contact who met his pals at his usual haunts and it was always with a fine welcome and another session of rock 'n roll music, dancing, singing and general Saturday Night Fever frolics. This took us to the late



hours. Early morning snacks were had from a night stall. Barbequed Chinese-style sausage, pork and chicken in a heavy sauce with an anise and sesame seeds topping. Lovely grub.

The next day surprisingly it was an early start to search out a real breakfast, as the hotel version was too western for a real China hand. But first, to a Tourist Office where a map of Shekou was requested — ***"A map of Shekou?" The staff were incredulous, who would want a map of Shekou?"*** We got the point; this town is not yet on-track for hordes of tourists. We were guided to the Dude Stationery store further north along Tai Zi Road and there could only procure a map with the main roads in English, everything else was in Chinese.

That junction, now misnamed Sea View Square, was home to a couple of select coffee houses, very smart, with al fresco table decor to one side. These were clearly popular with local ex-patriots who winned, dined and read the Sunday papers as if they were in Paris.

To get somewhere of interest, the first initiative was to place a blue Biro point on the map where a lot of streets converged. This delighted the taxi driver. Off we went and soon we were sitting at breakfast. Prices started at \$5 and peaked at \$10. We used Hong Kong dollars instead of yuan as the rates were about equal.

For the girls' shopping, the only way to continue forward was to put another Biro point on another interesting looking section of the town. The taxi driver's face gleamed with pleasure at these clear instructions. We were off again. The point on the map took us to 145 Gong Yuan Road, the Nan Shui area. There were lots of small eateries



in this district. Small shops are always interesting in China as they hold items not always found elsewhere, and the prices are really good.

By afternoon the day had grown hot and we made for a place near the waterfront, or, what had until recently been the waterfront. Now a landfill had taken the front further out and the parasol prettied restaurants in shade-tree environs lined a wide stretch of sand. This would have done until the planned park was laid. Off to one side was the "Minghua", a ship with a long and interesting history that was to be converted to boutiques and hotels under the concept of a Sea World Park.

On that lazy afternoon under the parasols, it was another excursion into the world of the green label 'Qingway'. To the right of the landlocked Minghua lay the glistening white statue of the goddess Niu Or, as the locals say. Probably the Nu Kua Shih figure from legend reputed to have repaired the heavens at a time of flooding. There seems to be a connection with the Queen of the Western Heaven, not to be confused with Tian Hou, the Goddess of the Sea much celebrated by Guangdong's fishermen.

We people-watched, flirted with the serving girls to brighten their afternoon and generally did nothing at all but engage in merriment. That's a fine Sunday afternoon we thought. ***In a year or two's time this district will be landscaped and extremely charming.***



1. Shekou offers many green sights which are unavailable in urban areas in Hong Kong
2. A fast developing district boomed with modern buildings
3. Briefing outside a Chinese restaurant
4. A great variety of delicious Chinese soups
5. The "Minghua" ship has been converted to boutiques and hotels



Hotels in Hubei

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Shennongjia	Shennongjia Hotel	**	1 Yanhe Rd, Songbai Town, Shennongjia	(719) 3332730	
Wuhan	Wuhan Asia Hotel	****	616 Liberation Avenue, Wuhan	(27) 3807777	(27) 3808080
	Yangtze Hotel	***	1131 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan	(27) 5862828	(27) 5854110
	Wuhan Lantian Hotel	***	1049 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan	(27) 5836555	(27) 5855161
	Hubei Lijiang Hotel	***	1 Tiyuguan Rd, Wuchang, Wuhan	(27) 7813668	(27) 7813638
	General Hotel	***	98 Bayi Rd, Wuchang, Wuhan	(27) 7871666	(27) 7873000
Yichang	Taohualing Hotel Yichang	****	29 Yunji Rd, Yichang	(717) 6442244	(717) 6445701
	Three Gorges Hotel Yichang	***	38 Yanjiang St, Yichang	(717) 6739888	(717) 6442025
	Nanhu Hotel Yichang	***	63 Fusui Rd, Yichang	(717) 6224033	(717) 6224066
	Yiling Hotel Yichang	***	67 Yunji Rd, Yichang	(717) 6223611	(717) 6223723
	Yangguang Hotel Yichang	**	1 Yunji Rd, Xiling, Yichang	(717) 6446075	(717) 6446086
Zigui	Zigui Hotel	*	205 Guizhou, Zigui County	(717) 2823951	

Hotels in Sichuan

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Chengdu	Jinjiang Hotel	*****	80 2nd Section Renmin South Avenue, Chengdu	(28) 5582222	(28) 5581849
	Chengdu Hotel	****	East Section of Shudu Rd, Chengdu	(28) 4448888	(28) 4441603
	Minshan Hotel	****	55 Section 2 Renmin Avenue South, Chengdu	(28) 5583333	(28) 5582154
	Jinhe Grand Hotel	***	18 Jinhe St, West Section of Shudu Rd, Chengdu	(28) 6642888	(28) 6632037
	Tibet Hotel Chengdu	***	10 Renmin Rd N, Chengdu	(28) 3333988	(28) 3333526
Wanxian	Taibai Hotel	**	30 Baiyan Rd, Wanxian	(819) 8223976	(819) 8228566
	Suote Hotel	**	Gyanyinyan Development Zone, Wanxian	(819) 223322	
Wanxian Prefecture	Dongpo Hotel	*	4 Guoyuan Rd, Zhongzhou Town, Zhongxian	(8284) 223177	(8284) 222539
	Wuxia Hotel	*	72 Jixian St, Wuxia Town, Wushan	(8287) 221740	(8287) 222001
	Kuizhou Hotel	*	1 Xianzheng Rd, Fengjie, Wanxian		

Flights to and from **Wuhan**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing – Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0825	1015	CA1333
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1045	1225	CZ3117
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1840	2025	CZ3134
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1600	1750	CZ3137
Wuhan – Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1050	1240	CA1334
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0800	1010	CZ3118
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1315	1505	CZ3138
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1600	1750	CZ3139
Chengdu – Wuhan	5	1920	2050	CZ3441
	2 4 6 7	2040	2230	CZ3442
	2 6	1525	1645	SZ4503
	3	1440	1605	SZ4503
	4	1620	1750	SZ4503
	1 3 4 5 6 7	0730	0905	SZ4509
Wuhan – Chengdu	5	1700	1840	CZ3442
	2 4 6 7	1840	2015	CZ3576
	2 6	2135	2305	SZ4504
	3	2030	2200	SZ4504
	4	2210	2340	SZ4504
	1 3 4 5 6 7	1345	1535	SZ4510

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Guangzhou – Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1640	1810	CZ3360
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1900	2030	CZ3367
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0940	1110	CZ3342
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1410	1540	CZ3347
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1500	1625	WU 311
Wuhan – Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	1010	CZ3368
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1305	1430	CZ3345
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1200	1320	CZ3348
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1750	1920	CZ3349
Kunming – Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1300	1420	WU 312
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2010	2140	CZ3443
	3 5 6	0955	1205	3Q4567
	1	0820	1020	3Q4567
Wuhan – Kunming	6	1400	1445	SC 245
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1705	1920	CZ3444
	3 5 6	1750	1950	3Q4568
	1	1620	1820	3Q4568
	6	1035	1310	SC 246

Flights to and from **Chengdu**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing – Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0845	1110	CA1405
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1525	1800	CA1407
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1635	1910	SZ4103
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0950	1215	SZ4112
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1215	1445	SZ4101
Chengdu – Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1200	1410	CA1406
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1900	2115	CA1408
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1320	1530	SZ4104
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1830	2040	SZ4111
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0900	1105	SZ4102
Dali – Chengdu	3 6	0900	1020	SZ4453
Chengdu – Dali	3 6	0700	0820	SZ4454
Guilin – Chengdu	1 3 5	2105	2235	SZ4323
	7	2115	2240	SZ4323
	2 4 6	1655	1825	SZ4324
	3 6 7	1825	1955	3U 361
	1 2 4 6	1510	1640	HU7425
Chengdu – Guilin	2 4 6	0835	0955	SZ4323
	1 3 5	1840	2015	SZ4324
	7	1905	2025	SZ4324
	3 6 7	1615	1745	3U 362
	1 2 4 6	1805	1950	HU7426

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Lijiang – Chengdu	2 5	21 35	2350	SZ4451
Chengdu – Lijiang	2 5	1850	2105	SZ4452
Qingdao – Chengdu	1 4 7	2005	2230	SZ4511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2000	2300	MU5468
	2	0740	1000	SC 263
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1440	1815	SC 177
Chengdu – Qingdao	1 4 7	1700	1925	SZ4512
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0700	1000	MU5467
	2	1410	1655	SZ264
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1905	2150	SC 177
Tianjin – Chengdu	1 3 4 6	0820	1205	CA1421
	2 6	1930	2155	SZ4121
	3 5	0830	1140	XW 237
	1	1820	2050	XW 239
Chengdu – Tianjin	1 3 4 6	1245	1630	CA1422
	2 6	1640	1850	SZ4122
	3 5	1235	1605	XW 238
	1	2130	2350	XW 240
Yichang – Chengdu	3 4 6 7	2055	2215	SZ4530
	3 5	0800	0900	WU 409
Chengdu – Yichang	3 4 6 7	0725	0840	SZ4529
	3 5	0940	1050	WU 410

* For reference only.

Airline codes:

CA= Air China
SC= Shandong Airlines
3Q= Yunnan Airlines

CZ= China Southern Airlines
SZ= China Southwest Airlines
3U= Sichuan Airlines

HU= Hainan Airlines Co Ltd
WU= Wuhan Airlines

MU= China Eastern Airlines
XW= China Xinhua Airlines

SEPTEMBER



22~27/9

As part of China's '99 Horticultural Tour' series activities, the **Zhangjiajie International Forest Festival** held in Zhangjiajie City in Hunan Province will include tour of forests, geological study tour, rafting the Maoyan River, international mountaineering invitational tournament, cliff mounting competitions, as well as art performances, "qigong" shows and cliff climbing stunts by local Tujia villagers. Zhangjiajie is the first national forest park in China.

12~16/9

Jointly held by Zhejiang Provincial Bureau of Tourism and the government of Jiaying City, the **Qiantang River Tide-watching Festival** on the Qiantang River will be staged in Haining City of East China's coastal province of Zhejiang. During the five-day annual event, a grand opening ceremony, an event to promote the cuisine of South China, and a symposium with the participation of representatives from both sides of the Taiwan Straits will be organized. The bell-shaped mouth of the Qiantang River that runs through the province forms the world-renowned tide with a crest as high as 3.5 metres every year.

13~16/9

Held at the Dalian Xinghai Convention & Exhibition Centre, the **15th Dalian International Fashion Festival** will gather together the trade, culture and tourism industries activities. The festival will feature 11 ceremonious and brilliant activities including an opening ceremony & grand evening party, Dalian Int'd Garment Fair & China Garment Export Fair, China Youth Fashion Designing Contest, Fashion Show of World Famous Designers and Brands, Parade and Carnival, etc. Located at the southern tip of Liaodong Peninsula, Dalian is one of the most important seaports as well as industrial, trading and tourist cities in China.



28~29/8

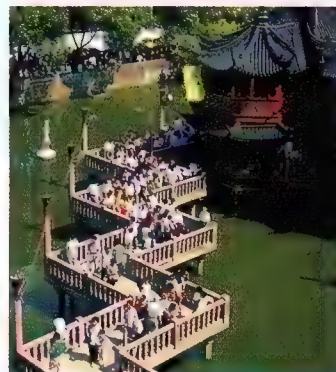
Expert Tibetan dishes cooks will have the opportunity to match their skills during the **First Tibet Traditional Cuisine Competition** held in Lhasa, capital of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The competition is the first of its kind in Tibet. Participants are encouraged to display both age-old traditional and new techniques. In individual contests, cooks will have to complete in limited time three prescribed dishes and three dishes of their own choice. In the team contest, each group, with four members at most, have to finish eight Tibetan dishes within a limited time.

5~10/9

During the **Second China International Equipment Manufacturing Exposition** held in Shenyang, capital city of Liaoning Province, there will be eight exhibition halls and one outdoor exhibition area, covering 48,000 sq m with 1,720 booths. It will also include several press conferences on equipment manufacturing investment projects, forums on international cooperation in the equipment manufacturing industry and on industrial design. Liaoning boasts over one third of the country's equipment manufacturing industry capacity.

21~27/9

Performances on large decorated floats, open-air concerts, Chinese-foreign tea culture exchanges, symposiums on international tourism and displays of the art and culture of the Red Mansions all be appreciated during the **Shanghai Huangpu Tourist Festival**. Also, there will be tour packages including Shanghai Citizenship for One Day, Discovering the Essence of Shanghai, and a Night Cruise over the Huangpu River. Tourists can immerse in shopping centres and a world of delicious food.



Feature Story: Next Station — Yunnan Stories of Wanderers

Sometimes, the people we meet en route can be more impressive than the attractive scenery.

In this early spring, the writer of the next Feature Story made a tour to Dali in Yunnan Province, while she received e-mails from Hong Kong warning her about the outbreak of SARS in the territory. Besides, the TV news reported the war between U.S.A. and Iraq. Fortunately, strangers met during the trip had positively changed her temperament, leaving her with many warm memories and new inspirations of life.

They include Mama Fu, the owner of the Kunming Restaurant, has been sincerely helping backpackers all these years; a Tibetan man who left his hometown in early years and now has opened a bar in the Foreigners' Street in Dali; a Korean man



who moved to Yunnan after the Asian financial turmoil; an introvert Suzhou man wholly captivated by the azure sky of the highland and decided to explore Dali; a group of westerners who came to study Chinese martial arts; a Taiwanese who found his new life in art in Lijiang after the 921 Earthquake in Taiwan; youngsters who live truly everyday through singing songs; a Hong Kong pair who have retired earlier and moved to Yunnan to enjoy a simple life...

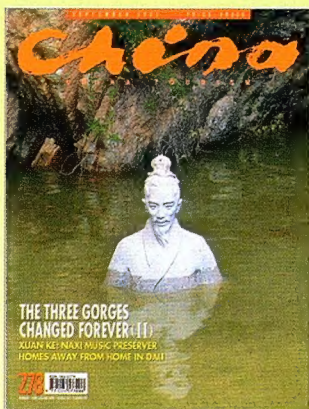
Numerous stories of people help us to see the infinite possibility of life.

Profile: Kin-Man Chung

At the time when the world is celebrating the 50 anniversary of human's ascent of the Mt. Qomolangma, Hong Kong mountaineer Kin-Man Chung also brought the good news of successfully reaching the summit of the Qomolangma Peak which stands 8,848 metres above sea level. In our interview, he is going to share the feeling and experience with our readers.

**Discoveries: Shaoxing — Hometown of Millet Wine**

Most visitors to Shaoxing in East China's Zhejiang Province must have heard about Lu Xun (1881 — 1936), a famous writer born in the town, or the millet wine. To this date, the quality of Shaoxing wine is still rated as the best of its kind in China. Our stationed correspondent introduces the process of making millet wine to our readers.



Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
The Three Gorges Changed Forever (II)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Historic Ascent of Mt. Qomolangma	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Homes Away From Home in Dali	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Foreign Tastes in Guangzhou	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Xuan Ke: A Man with an Evergreen Heart	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cover	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Articles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tips for the Traveller	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Art Design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other Opinions: _____					

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☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business

☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others _____

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

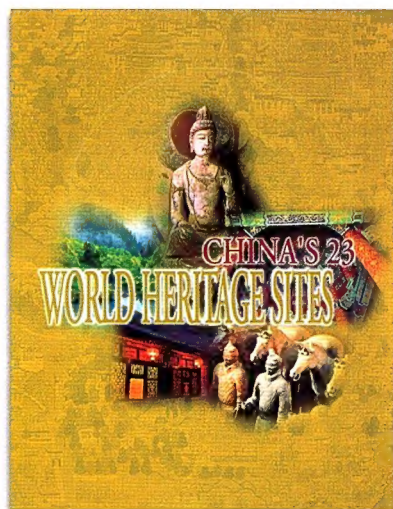
Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

China's 23 World Heritage Sites



Today, more than 580 cultural and natural sites have been placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. China, one of the world's four ancient civilisations, also has its share of these heritage sites. Up to 1999, 23 sites in the country have been honourably put on the list. These include the Mountain Resort in Chengde, the Temple of Heaven, the Ruins of Zhoukoudian, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the ancient city of Pingyao, Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum in Xi'an, Wulingyuan, Huanglong, Jiuzhaigou, Mount Emei, the ancient town of Lijiang, Potala Palace, Mount Wudang, Mount Taishan, Confucius' Temple,

Mansion and Cemetery in Qufu, Suzhou Gardens, Mount Huangshan, Mount Lushan, Mount Wuyi and Dazu Rock Carvings.

In this book, *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*, you can delight in the beauty of each one of these sites. Incredibly gorgeous pictures together with a practical travel guide add to the book's comprehensive nature and make it a great gift for you and your friends.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

China's 23 World Heritage Sites



JIN JIANG HOTEL

where Shanghai's past and future are ever present.



At the heart of Shanghai, sits the stately Jin Jiang Hotel. Here, venerable European buildings surround a lush, wooded garden, and house some of the most modern facilities available in Shanghai. The hotel is proud to have received about 300 state leaders and government heads since its opening. Its incomparably attentive service has won high praise from guests from both home and abroad. The Cathay Building of Jin Jiang Hotel which was built in 1926, integrates the traditional

classic Gothic style. In 1999, the Cathay Building was renovated into a five-star hotel. It takes on once again an elegant look and combines the traditional classic style with up-to-date facilities.

Jin Jiang Grand Hall witnessed numerous historic events including the birth of the "Sino-American Joint Communiqué" in February 1972. After rebuilding, the new Jin Jiang Grand Hall is ready to provide simply the best service and hospitality with the state-of-the-art facilities.

Jin Jiang's food has a history dating back to the 1930's and its Sichuan and Cantonese cuisine has become perfected after more than a half-century of experience.

70 years later, Jin Jiang Hotel — where Shanghai's past and future are ever present.



锦江饭店

JIN JIANG HOTEL
SHANGHAI



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